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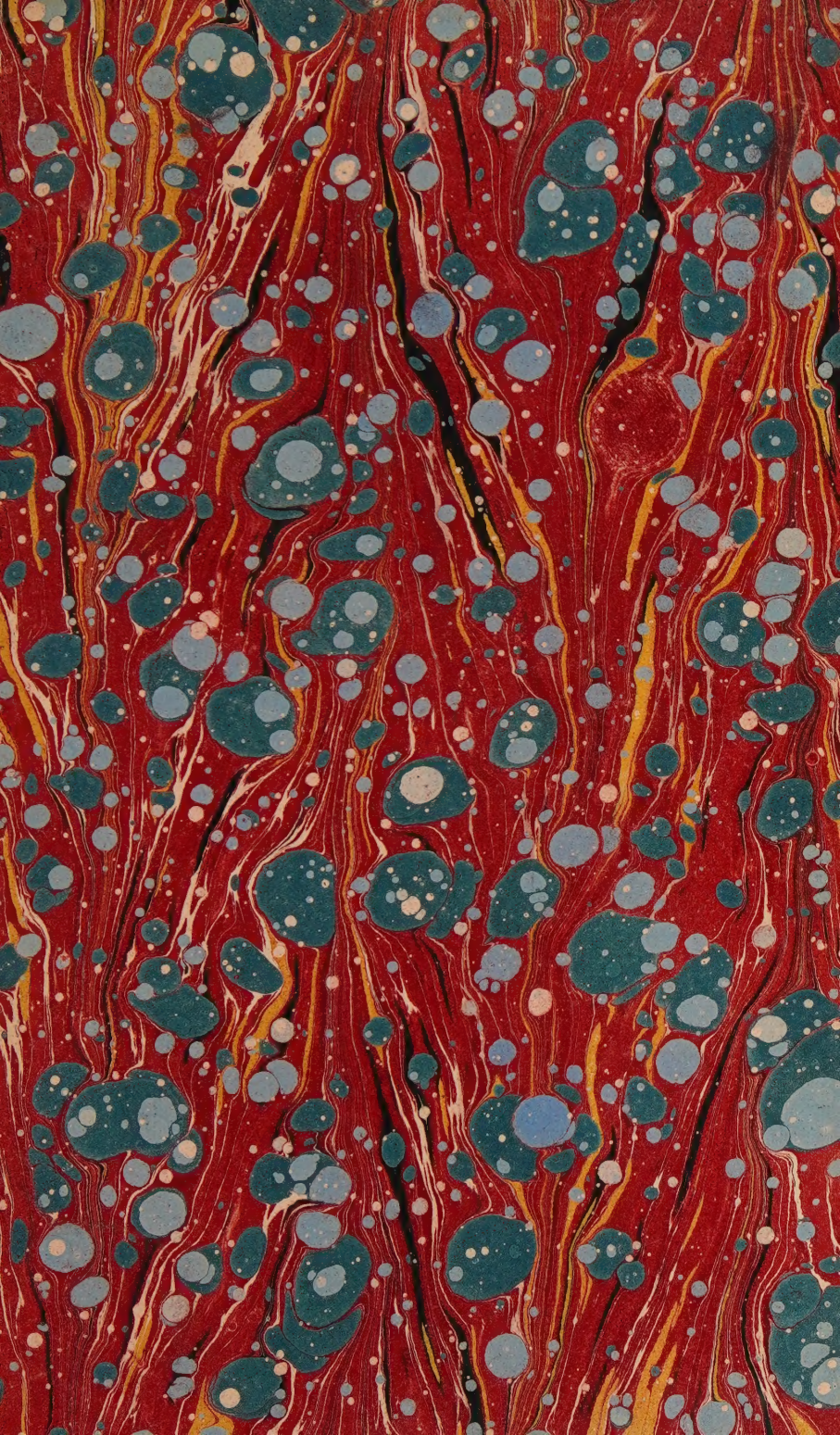
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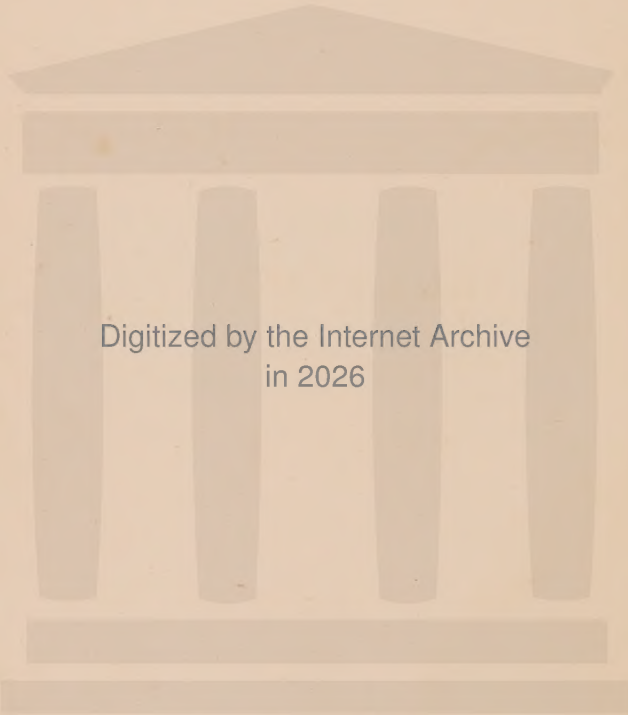
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Letters and Papers

of

Thomas Mytton of Halston Esq^{re}

1642-1655

edited by

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COLONEL MITTON.

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Pub.^d 1.027.1736 by S & E Harding Pall Mall.

Montgomeryshire Collections Vol. VII to face Page 353.

MYTTON MANUSCRIPTS.

LETTERS AND PAPERS OF THOMAS MYTTON OF HALSTON, ESQ.

Sometime Major-General of the Parliament's army in North Wales, 1642 to 1655.

THE study of originals, whether they be original buildings, or original paintings, or original manuscripts, has an intrinsic value, albeit that such study may require some patience and some understanding. Therefore we doubt not that a few letters written during a stirring period of English history, by a man eminent in his day, will still be found worth the trouble of reading. The graphic touch of a writer who has been an actor in the scenes which he describes, is more expressive than volumes of elaborate criticism. So with brief preface, only such as is necessary to remind the forgetful reader of a few dates for landmarks, and of a few obscure facts concerning men and circumstances alluded to, we shall leave these letters to speak for themselves. Where note and explanation are needed, we have as far as possible transcribed the words of cotemporary authors.

Something must first be said of Thomas Mytton himself. He was the representative of an old Shropshire stock, for many generations intimately connected with the town of Shrewsbury. More than a century before his birth, the Myttons had risen far above the burgher class, but had not on that account given up their connection with their native town.

In the 15th century, a Thomas Mytton, of Shrewsbury, married Cicelie, daughter and heir of William Boerly, the last representative of an influential county

family; his son Thomas, married a daughter and co-heir of the wealthy Sir John Burgh, of Wattlesborough, county Salop, through whom he added the lordship of Dinas Mawddy, in the counties of Merioneth and Montgomery, the estate of Habberley, in Shropshire, and other possessions to the family inheritance. He was sheriff of Shropshire in 1483. This man's son William, married Cicelie, daughter of Henry Delves, Esq., of Cheshire; and his son Richard, sheriff of Shropshire in 1544, married Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Grey, Kt., of Enville, and died in the year 1591. The manuscript chronicle of Shrewsbury thus records his burial:—

“The gentle Maister Mytton, an alderman of Salop, 6 tymes bailiff of the town, was solemnly buried, being about an hundred years old.”¹

His eldest son, Edward, died in his father's lifetime, in 1568, having purchased the estate of Halston, near Oswestry, from Alan Hood, who purchased it from the Crown, and Halston thenceforth became the seat of the family. He married Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Greville, Knight, of Milcote, county Warwick, and was succeeded by his son Edward, who also died during the lifetime of his grandfather, in 1583, having married Anne, daughter of Reynold Corbet, of Stoke, a judge of the Court of King's Bench; he was followed by his son Richard, who at length succeeded his long lived great grandfather, the “gentle maister Mytton.” In 1610 he was sheriff of Shropshire; he married Margaret, the daughter of Thomas Owen, Judge of the Common Pleas, the builder of the fine house of Condober, near Shrewsbury. This Richard Mytton and this Margaret Owen were the parents of our Thomas Mytton. We observe that both his mother and his grandmother were the daughters of men distinguished above their fellows, both judges of the land. What manner of man Thomas Mytton was, will appear hereafter, at present we only give a few of the dates of his

¹ Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*.

life. He was born in 1608, married in 1629, Margaret, daughter of Sir R. Napier, of Luton, co. Bedford, whose sister married Sir Thomas Myddleton, Kt., of Chirk Castle. He was a colonel in the Parliament's army in 1643. He was successively governor of Wem and of Oswestry. In 1645, he was Parliamentary sheriff of Shropshire; shortly afterwards he was made a Major-general, and entrusted with the chief military command in North Wales. In 1654 he was member of Parliament for Shropshire, and in 1656 he died in London, and was buried at St. Chad's, at Shrewsbury.

Pennant who was kinsman to the family of Mytton, thus writes of him :—

“The scene of his actions was chiefly in North Wales. By his military prowess most of the castles in North Wales were subdued, and he greatly distinguished himself in several battles; but finding that Cromwell and his party had further designs than the mere defence of liberty (the cause in which he engaged) resigned his command and retired.”—Pennant's *Wales*, vol. i, p. 247.

Of the motives which led men like Mr. Mytton, to rank themselves on the side of the parliament, we may learn something from the autobiography of a pious Shropshire clergyman, the Rev. Richard Baxter.¹

¹ Richard Baxter was born at Rowton, near High Ercall, in Shropshire, in 1615. His father was a freeholder in the parish of Eaton Constantine; he was educated at the free school, Wroxeter, where Dr. Allestree, afterwards provost of Eton, and the sons of Mr. Newport, afterwards Viscount Newport, were his schoolfellows. In 1638 he was ordained. He was preferred to the curacy or lectureship of Bridgnorth, and afterwards to the lectureship of Kidderminster. He refused the chaplaincy of Cromwell's regiment; but, after the battle of Naseby, became chaplain to Colonel Whalley's regiment, and was “looked coldly on” by Cromwell. Before the battle of Worcester he was asked to join Charles the Second's army, but refused. He was what was then called a “Presbyterian”, and preached against the “Independents” and “Sectarians”. He preached before Cromwell, but, he says, “the plainness and nearness I heard was displeasing to him and his courtiers, but they put it up”. Afterwards, in a personal interview, he told Cromwell “that we took our ancient monarchy to be a blessing and not an evil to the land, and humbly craved his patience

“As the king had at once imposed ship-money on the commonwealth and permitted the bishops to impose upon the church their displeasing articles, and bowing towards the altar, and the book for dancing on the Lord’s day, and the Liturgy on Scotland, etc., and to suspend or silence abundance of ministers who were conformable for want of this super-canonical conformity; so accordingly the Parliament consisted of two sorts of men, who by the conjunction of these cases were united in their votes and endeavours for a reformation; one party made no great matter of these alterations of the church; but they said that if Parliaments were once down, and our propriety gone and arbitrary government set up and law subjected to the Prince’s will, we were then all slaves, and this they made a thing intolerable, for the remedying of which they said every true Englishman could think no price too dear. These the people called good Commonwealth men. The other sort were the more religious men, who were also sensible of all these things, but were much more sensible of the interest of religion, and these most inveighed against the innovations in the church, the bowing to altars, the book of sports on Sundays, the casting out of ministers, the troubling of the people by the High Commission Court, the pilloring and cutting off men’s ears (Mr. Burton’s, Mr. Prin’s, and Dr. Bastwick’s) for speaking against the bishops, the putting down lectures, and afternoon sermons and expositions on the Lord’s days, with such other things which they thought of greater weight than ship-money; but because these latter agreed with the former in the vindication of the people’s propriety and liberties, the former did the easier concur with them against the proceedings of the bishops and High Commission Court.”

The strength of the king lay, with some notable exceptions, in the Western shires and Wales. The Parliament was paramount in the eastern counties, and indeed into them the war was never seriously carried. In the beginning, Shropshire seemed entirely for the king,

that I might ask him how England had ever forfeited that blessing, and to whom the forfeiture was made”. In 1660 he preached before the restoration Parliament. At the restoration he was made a king’s chaplain in ordinary. He was offered the bishopric of Hereford, which he declined. He was a friend of Sir Matthew Hale and Archbishop Usher. In 1685 he was tried before Judge Jeffreys for his book, *A Paraphrase of the New Testament*, and sentenced to fine and imprisonment. The fine was remitted, but he underwent two year’s imprisonment while James II reigned. He died in 1691.

and the parliament had not a single garrison in the county. In the sequel we shall see how by degrees stronghold after stronghold was taken by the Parliamentary forces, and principally through the activity of Mytton, until the county became completely Parliamentary.

It was in August, 1642, that the king set up his standard at Nottingham. Clarendon, an eye-witness, says :—

“According to proclamation, upon the twenty-fifth day of August, the standard was erected about six of the clock in the evening of a very stormye and tempestuous day. The king himself with a small train rode to the top of the Castle Hill (at Nottingham),¹ Varney, who was knight marshall and standard-bearer, carrying the standard, which was erected in that place, with little other ceremony than the sounds of drums and trumpets; melancholy men observed many presages at that time The standard was blown down the same night it had been set up by a very strong and unruly wind, and could not be fixed again in a day or two till the tempest was allayed.”

But already there had been enlistment of soldiers on both sides, and commissions of array had been sent out by the king, to commissioners in different counties. Here is an example of how they were executed close to Mr. Mytton's home, in Shropshire :—

“There was a commission granted by the king to several persons to raise what forces they could for his service. It was called the commission of array. Sir Paul Harris² of Boreatton was a commissioner. He was a person not well beloved by the antient gentry of this county, for being as they termed him but a buck of the second head; yett being a baronet, and a proud imperious person, he took place of those of antient knight's degree. Neither was he beloved by the common people. His only favorites were Robert More³ and Mathew Bagley

¹ He was killed at Edgehill. The king's standard for a time was in the hands of the enemy till it was rescued by Captain Smyth.

² Sir P. Harris died in 1644, and was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas Harris. They were both zealous royalists.

³ Brother to the Rev. Thomas More, rector of Myddle, a leaseholder and tithe farmer in the parish.

of Bagley ; and these two were accounted the veriest knaves in Pimhill hundred. Sir Paul Harris sent out warrants requiring and commanding all men, both householders with their sons and servants and sojourners, and others within the hundred of Pimhill that were between the age of sixteen and sixty, to appear on a certain day at Myddle Hill. I was then about eight or nine years old and went to see this great show, and there I saw a multitude of men, and upon the highest bank of the hill I saw this Robert More standing, with a paper in his hand, and three or four souldiers' pikes stuck upright in the ground by him ; and there he made a proclamation, that if any person would serve the king as a souldier in the wars, he should have 14 groats a week for his pay. About that time Sir William Brereton of Brereton, in Cheshire, being a member of Parliament, was sent down into Cheshire to raise forces for the Parliament. He placed a garrison in Namptwich, and having intelligence that this More and some others were busy in raising forces for the king there came a party of horse and apprehended Robert More and brought him to Namptwich, where he soon after died a prisoner."—Gough's¹ *History of Myddle*, p. 33.

Each side tried to fix names of opprobrium on their enemies. The nicknames applied by the Royalists have endured, the others are now almost forgotten.

The king's party adopted "Cavaliers" for themselves and "Roundhead" for their enemies, deriving the last either from the short cut hair of the Puritans, so unlike their own flowing love-locks, or "as some say, because the queen at Strafford's tryal asked who that round-headed man was, meaning Mr. Pym, because he spake so strongly." The Parliament's party called the other side commonly by the name of Malignants. . . . and afterwards they called them Dammies, because "God damn me" was become a common curse and as a by-word among them.²

¹ Richard Gough was born in 1634. He was clerk to Sir Robert Corbett of Stanwardine, who was *custos rotulorum* of Shropshire, sometime member of parliament for the county during the Protectorate, and a master in chancery. Richard Gough was the author of *A History of the Parish of Myddle*, which the late Sir Thomas Phillips characterised "as one of the most extraordinary topographical and genealogical works ever written".

² *Autobiography of Richard Baxter*, p. 33.

It was truly an evil time for those who doubted on which side to stand. Mr. Richard Baxter says :—

“For myself I knew not what course to take, to live at home I was uneasie ; but especially now, when souldiers on one side or the other would be frequently among us, and we must be still at the mercy of every furious beast that would make a prey of us ; I had neither money nor friends ; I knew not who would receive me into any place of safety nor had I anything to satisfie them for my diet and entertainment.”—*Autobiography of R. Baxter*, p. 43.

With such preface we may fitly introduce our first paper, which is an order to seize Mr. Mytton's goods and chattels for the service of his majesty. It was the practice of both sides, as far as possible, to put their hands into each other's pockets.

PAPER NO. I.

“Having a commission from Sir Nicholas Biron¹, the collonel generall to repaire to the house of Thomas Mytton, Esq., for to take all armes, all horses, and cattell that I could find in his house or upon the lands I doe give under my hand that these 6 coves I leave behind that thay sarvants bought them for there owne use of mee.

“JOHN MORRIS.

“The first day of March 1642.”

“All the reste of the armes horses and catell I tooke for his maijys service.

“Received of Samuel Wald and of Richard Roodell the sune of tenn pounds which was dew unto me from Mr. Edward Mitton for 6 coves. I say received £10.

“JOHN MOR.”

¹ He was governor of Chester. Edward Hyde, afterwards Lord Clarendon, the historian of the Rebellion, writes from Oxford, under the date 9th February 1642, to Sir Francis Ottley, governor of Shrewsbury. “Sir N. Byron is sent by his Maty to commande the forces for reducinge Cheshire. He is a right worthy gentlemen.”—“Ottleiana”, *Coll. Gen. et Top.*, vol. v. He was afterwards taken prisoner in a skirmish at Ellesmere.

PAPER No. II.

It was in August, 1642, as we have seen, that the king's standard was raised at Nottingham ; still however a paper war was maintained, and here are specimens of a king's message, and a Parliament's reply :—

The date of the king's message is 5th September, 1642.

“ We will not repeate what meanes we have used to prevent the dangerous and distracted estate of the kingdome, nor how those meanes have beene interpreted, because being desirous to avoid effusion of blood, we are willinge to decline all memorie of former bitternes, that might make our offer of a treatie lesse readilie accepted, we never did declare nor ever intended to declare both houses of Parliament traytors or set up our standard against them, and much lesse to put them or this kingdome out of our protection, soe utterlie professe against it, before God, and the world ; and further to remove all possible scruples which maie hinder the treatie so much desiered by us, we hereby promise (so that a daie be appointed by you for the revokinge your declarations against all persons or traytors or otherwise for assistinge us) we shall with all chearfulness upon the same daie recall our proclamations and declarations and take down our standard, in which treatie we shall be readie to graunt anie thinge that shall be reallie for the good of our subjects, conjuringe you to consider the bleeding condition of Ireland, and the dangerous condition of England, in as high degree, as by these our offers we have declared ourselves to doe and assuringe you that our cheife desire in this world is to beget a good understandinge and mutual confidence betwixt us and our two houses of Parliament.”

The answer of Parliament to the above message :—

“ Whereas his majestie in a messuage received the 5th of September requires that the Parliament would revoke their declaracions against such persons as have assisted his majestie in this unnaturall warre against his kingdome ; it is this day ordered and declared, by the Lords and Commons, that the armes which they have bin forced to take up and shall be forced to take up, for the preservacion of the Parliament, religion, the lawes and liberties of the kingdome, shall not be laid downe untill his majestie shall withdrawe his protection from such persons as have bin voted by both houses to be delinquents or that shall by both houses be voted to be delinquents, and shall leave them to the justice of the Parliament, to be pro-

ceeded with according to their demeritts to the end that both this and succeeding generacions may take warning with what danger they incurre the like heyneus crimes and also to the end that those great charges and damages wherewith all the commonwealth hath bin burthened in the premises since his majesties departure from the Parliament may be borne by the delinquents and other malignant and disaffected persons; and that all his majesties good and well-affected subjects, who by loane of moneys or otherwise have assisted the commonwealth, or shall in like manner hereafter assist the commonwealth in time of extreame danger may be repayd all such summes of money by them lent for those purposes, and be satisfied their charges soe sustained out of the estates of the said delinquents and of the malignant and disaffected partie in this kingdome."

PAPER No. III.

Edgehill fight had been fought on the 22nd October, 1642, and its indecisive result had left both parties very much where they were before the battle. There were musterings of men and garrisonings of houses and towns, going on all over the country. In Shropshire and Cheshire the king's party was paramount. Not a single garrison had the other side in the former county, though the expectation of a descent upon Shropshire by Sir William Brereton and his Cheshire roundheads, created an uneasy feeling of alarm. The king himself had been at Shrewsbury. There had been marchings to and fro, and there had been skirmishes. The Parliamentary party were not idle. Mytton was a colonel in this army.

In his own immediate neighbourhood round Halston he had several substantial country gentlemen, inclining to his own way of thinking; Colonel Andrew Lloyd, of Aston, Mr. Thomas Baker, of Sweeny, Mr. Evans of Treflach. The Earl of Denbigh was in chief military command of the county, and the Earl of Bridgewater, the owner of large estates, sympathised with the same side. Sir Thomas Myddelton, of Chirk, Mytton's brother-in-law, was also in the service of the Parlia-

ment. The following letter, written from Wem some four months before it was openly occupied as a Parliamentary garrison, indicates trouble both from within and from without :

" For Mrs. Magdalen Mytton, at Carey House, in the Strand, present.

" Wem, 3 of March, 1643.

" DEARE HART,—I received thine upon Mondaie night last, which daie it pleased God to deliver me out of mine ennemies hands, when I was in great danger, and I believe there will be found treacherie in the businesse by one that brother Myddleton¹ brought from London with him ; concerninge mye beinge a parliament man, if it please any to make choice of me, I shall be willinge to doe the best service I am able in that kind, accordinge to my weak abilities. Brother Myddleton's men will obey no orders from me for all that I have done for them. They saie that they have authoritie from him for what they doe, and talk of other strange matters they will doe by command from him, which for my part I think not fecible, I dare saie not tenable, and if so it will be a greate wronge to all well-affected in those parts. Some maie put him upon these things for their own ends, I feare no waie for his advantage, and I am sure for no good for this countie. Had I at first known what was aymed at I would have been contented with a troope of horse in the Lord Generall's armie, and if it please him to be here in my stead, I shall willinglie yet to do soe, and surelie it will be his waie to get Wales to have a retreatinge place in this countie. Tell my sonne Pope I received his, wherein he intimates that he hath sent me divers letters that he desires to be in imploiment ; I received none till now. If that he continue in that resolution, I thinke it his best course to present his service to the Earle of Denbigh² with what speed he can. The Lord direct us all aright my deare. Farewell, rite much of thyself, my respects to my brothers and sisters, and blessinge to the children. T. M.

" P.S.—My service to cosin Corbet,³ remember me to my uncle. I have not heard since my cominge doune whether there be such men as he and cosin Jackson livinge."

[Seal.—A two headed eagle displayed.]

¹ Sir Thomas Myddleton, of Chirk Castle, was son of Sir T. Myddleton, Lord Mayor of London, who bought Chirk from Lord St. John of Bletso in 1595. He married a daughter of Sir R. Napier of Luton, co. Bedford, and was brother-in-law of Mytton. He adhered to the parliament during the first period of the civil war, but, in 1659, joined Sir Charles Booth in a premature and ineffectual attempt to restore Charles II. His castle of Chirk was besieged and taken by Lambert, and he suffered severely. He died in 1666. His son was created a baronet. The baronetcy expired in 1718, and the family became extinct in the male line in 1792 on the death of Sir Thomas Myddleton, Knt. It is now represented in the female line by Mr. Myddleton Biddulph of Chirk Castle, and Mr. Cornwallis West of Ruthin Castle.

² Basil, second Earl of Denbigh, eldest son of the first earl, who was made a viscount in 1620 and an earl in 1622. His father fought on the king's side, and was killed in a skirmish near Birmingham in 1643. At Edgehill the present peer held a command in the parliament's army, and was afterwards entrusted with a chief command in Cheshire, Shropshire, and North Wales. He concurred in the restoration, and was created Lord St. Liz in 1663. From him the present Earl of Denbigh is descended.

³ Thomas Mytton's grandfather married a daughter of Reynold Corbet of Stoke.

PAPER No. IV.

The following is the form of oath which the Parliament required of their adherents :—

“I, A. B., in all humble and reverence of the divine Majestie declare my hartie sorrow for my owne sins and the sins of this kingdome which have deserved the calamities and judgements that now ly upon it and my true intencion is by God’s grace to endeavour the amendment of my owne wayes. And that I doe abhor and detest the said wicked and trecherous desire lately discovered, and that I never gave nor will give my ascent to the execucion thereof, but will accordinge to my power and vocacion oppose and resist the same and all other of the like nature, and in case any other like desire shall hereafter come to my knowledge I will make such timely discovery as I shall conceave may best condiscead to the preventinge thereof. And whereas I doe in my conscience believe that the forces raysted by the two houses of Parliament are raysted and continued for there just defence and for the defence of the true Protestant religion and liberties of the subjects agaynst the forces raysted by the kinge. I doe here in the presense of Almightye God declare, vow, and covenant that I will accordinge to my power and vocation assist the forces raysted and continued by the two houses of Parliament agaynst the forces raysted by the kinge without there consent and will, likewise assist all other persons that shall take this oath in what they shall doe in pursuance thereof and not directly or indirectly adheare unto nor shall willingly assist the forces raysted by the king without the consent of both houses of Parliament. And this vow and covenant I make in the presence of Almightye God the searcher of all hearts with a true intencion to performe the same as I shall answer at the greate day of judgment when the secrets of all harts shall be disclosed.

“June 6th, 1643.”

PAPER No. V.

“*To my moaste honored goode friende Collonell Thomas Mytton att Shrewsburye, these hasten.*

“SIR—I have lately received two letters from you, the one of the fyrst and the other of the eight instant, and in both I fynde a mixture of goode and badde newes; the expedientes you propounde in yor last letter the fyrst of them is effected, and my cosin Madrin voted by both houses to be sheriffe for Carnarvon, I shall endeavor to effect the other two as tyme will permitt. I ame sorry to fynde such a defectione in the country. I did hope they care

of selfe preservations would have kept them in, the destructione comminge upon them is from themselves, they may thank themselves for itt. I am amased and amused that Anglesey shulde be in that conditione you render itt, espetiallye Mr. Recorder and myself having received soe many letters, and of late too from my Lo. Bulkeley and diverse others of the gentry of that countye and of greatest interest, declaringe theyr resolutiones to contynue in obedience to parliamente, if they fayle I shall hardely trust men. I yett hope better things. I am affearde of some mistaks growne betwixt you and them, if soe I should thynk myself happy to be instrumentall in the removall of them; lenitives are to be tried before corrosives—Sed immedicabile vulnus ense recidendum est. Sir, I shall be ever for the publicke weale, God willing, as for your owne private busynesse. I shall call at Mr. Jackson for names, and expedite itt with what speede may he commande to serve you to his power,

“Your affectionate frinde and servante,

“June the 13th, 1643.

“W. FOXWIST.”

[Seal.—*A lion passant.*]

PAPER NO. VI.

A lapse of nearly a year occurs between the last two letters and the next two; in that period something had been successfully achieved in Shropshire by Mytton.

We quote from Mr. Baxter's autobiography.

“At this time [Aug. 1643] Col. Mitton and other Shropshire gentlemen resolved to settle a garrison at Wem, a little towne in their own county, eight miles from Shrewsbury; and Mr. Mackworth,¹ Mr. Hunt,² etc., were earnest with me to go with

¹ Humphrey Mackworth, of Betton Strange, near Shrewsbury, was great grandson of John Mackworth, bailiff of that town in 1540. He was born 1603. He married, in 1634, a daughter of Thomas Waller of Beaconsfield, co. Bucks. In 1642 he was one of the Shropshire Committee for raising the parliamentary assessment. In 1645 he was made Governor of Shrewsbury. In 1651 he answered Charles the Second's overtures for delivering up Shrewsbury in these words—“If you believe me a gentleman, as you say

² Thomas Hunt was the son of Richard Hunt who was several times bailiff of Shrewsbury. He was Governor of Wem. He was, in 1640, M.P. for Shrewsbury. He was one of the Parliament's Shropshire Committee. He succeeded Judge Mackworth as Governor of Shrewsbury. Matthew Henry says of him, “An Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile”. He married a daughter of Owen of Woodhouse. After the Restoration he purchased Boreatton, where his descendants still live, and are represented by Mr. Rowland Hunt. He died in 1669.

them because it was my native county.....As soon as we came thither, and they began to fortify Wem, the Lord Capell¹ brought his army from Shrewsbury against them, where (Sir William Brereton² bringing the Cheshire trained bands to assist the little handful at Wem) the two armies lay within a mile of each other two or three days, and after some little skirmishing the Lord Capell drew off and marcht into Cheshire to Nantwich, being assured thereby to draw off the Cheshire men, and then resolved the same night to return and storm the town; and his plot took according to his contrivance; for that night he plundered all the villages about Nantwich, and at midnight marched back another way; the Cheshire men were quickly on their march, when they heard that the enemy were plundering their country, and by that time they came to Nantwich the Lord Capell was got back again to Wem. There was nothing about the town bigger than a ditch, such as husbandmen enclose their ground with, and this not finished, and the gates new made had no hinges, but were reared up; and there was but very few men in the town, especially under the command of Col. Hunt (a plain-hearted, honest, godly man, entirely beloved and trusted by the soldiers for his honesty). I went with the Cheshire men to Nantwich; when they came thither they under-

you do, you may believe I will be faithful to my trust." For which he received the thanks of parliament and a medal and a chain. He was the same year President of the Court which condemned the Earl of Derby to death. He was second justice of Chester and Recorder of Bridgenorth. In 1654 he was M.P. for Shropshire, and he was one of Cromwell's Councillors of State. He died in 1654, and was buried in Henry the Seventh's chapel, Westminster Abbey. In 1660 his bones were dug up, and thrown into a pit by order of Charles II. His son married a daughter of Thomas Mytton. The Shropshire property of the Mackworths was sold in the eighteenth century: Buntinsdale to the Tayleurs, who were their kinsmen; and Betton to the Hills of Tern. The family is now represented by Sir Arthur William Mackworth, Bart. The baronetcy was created in 1776.

¹ Arthur Capell, created Baron Capell of Hadham, co. Herts, in 1641. Appointed Lieutenant-General to the Prince of Wales of all the king's forces in the counties of Salop, Worcester, Chester, and North Wales in the same year. Beheaded in 1648 by the Parliament.

² Sir William Brereton of Handford, co. Chester, one of the most active of the Parliamentary generals in these parts. He established a garrison at Nantwich very early in the war. He was appointed Chief Forester of Macclesfield and Steward of the hundred. He died in 1661.

stood the stratagem of Lord Capell and heard that they were storming Wem; and Sir William Brereton would have had his men march after them presently to relieve Wem; but the soldiers were all commanders, and seeing their own country plundered in their absence and being weary they all resolved they would not go; and so Wem was given up for lost; but in the morning about three or four o'clock, when we thought they had been asleep, their minds all changed and to Wem they would then go; but they marcht so slowly and halted by the way that the Lord Capell's army had twice stormed Wem, and being beaten back, drew off just as the Cheshire men came upon them, and secured their retreat by Lee Bridge and the darkness of the night and the ignorance of their fears, and disorders in the army that pursued them. When we came to Wem we found that the Lord Capell had been twice repulsed with much loss; Colonel Win slain and Colonel Sir Thomas Scriven¹ mortally wounded and little hurt done to any in the town."

So Wem became the first base of operations for the Parliamentary forces in Shropshire. Up to June 1644, the war had been carried on without any signal advantage being gained by either side. But June was an eventful month. Rupert commanded in the North, and after a successful march from Lancashire to York, was disastrously routed at Marston Moor (June 1644). The King during the same month retreated from Oxford, before the parliamentary general Waller, and began to fall back upon his stronghold of Shrewsbury; Waller followed, the king made a counter-march, and on the 29th of June gained a partial victory at Cropredy bridge. It was during these operations that the skirmish took place which the following letter describes. We will first insert the account of it as it appeared in one of the papers of the day:—

¹ Sir Thomas Scriven of Frodesley, a property inherited in the fifteenth century by the Scrivens from the family of Henault or Honand. In 1497 an ancestor of the present knight was sheriff of Shropshire and another was sheriff in 1597. Sir Thomas was an active partizan on the Royalist side, colonel of a regiment of trained bands, and Governor of Whitechurch. The family terminated in the male line on the death of Richard Scriven in 1683, who was also a colonel in the king's service. His daughter and heir married Roger Whitley of Peover, co. Chester.

"About June 12, 1644, came information of an exploit of the Earl of Denbigh. The king being upon his departure from Bewdley towards Shrewsbury sent a party of about three thousand horse against the earl at Dudley Castle, which horse coming suddenly upon them, the noble earl sent a party of forlorn hope, commanded in chief by ever honoured Colonell Mitton, governor of Wem, who most bravely charged the ennemy; but their force being all horse and coming violently on, our forlorn hope seemed to be in a forlorn condition, and it was advised by the council of war that the earl could not without great hazard attempt to relieve it; but he resolved to relieve it or die in the attempt, and cried out 'Come on, sirs, follow me; for by the grace of God I will rescue Colonell Mitton or lay my bones in his place,' and thereupon soon freed his forlorn hope and put the ennemies to flight."¹

"Wallsall, 13 of June, 1644.

"To my best beloved friend, Mrs. Magdalen Mytton, over against the New Exchange in London, this with my love and service, present.

"DEAR HARTE,—I received thine even now by William, what is left unsould at Wem that will serve thy turne upon my returne thither, beinge now readie to goe that waie, I will secure as well as I can; I praie thee send me doune a hatte, I am in great need of one, you saw the best I had; when I have a convenient messenger I will send thee a new payre of silke stockins; the letter I sent thee, which miscarried, my lord gave it to Mr. Mackworth, who did undertake to send it thee. Remember my respects to Mr. Pierpoint,² acquaint him that we are marching this daie towards Stafford, and thence intend to releev Wem. The Earl [of Denbigh] hath engaged me not to leave him and promised to do me right, which I doubt not of while he is there; they themselves have confessed their errors upon sinister conceits. Upon Tuesdaie God gave us a greate deliverance, the bodie of the king's armie came within three miles of us before they were discovered. I beinge in bed within a mile of them, and had no notice of the alarme, I went to the forlorne hope of our armie (as soon as I had notice) to discover the ennemies strength, which I perceived to be double ours, besides the reare guard, which I saw not. I sent presentlie to my Lord to send away his ordnance and carriages, but things were so farre out of order

¹ Vicar's *Parl. Chron.*, p. iii, quoted in Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, p. 251.

² William Pierpoint was the second son of the first Earl of Kingston, who lost his life in the service of Charles I. He married the daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Harries of Tong, Bart., and thus became possessed of that ancient property which had been purchased by Sir T. Harries from the Stanleys. He was called "Wise William", and, though in the beginning, a zealous supporter of the Parliament, he was active in promoting the Restoration, and afterwards in getting rid of the feudal tenures. He was sheriff of Shropshire in 1638, M.P. for Shropshire in 1640, and afterwards for Wenlock in the Long Parliament. He eventually succeeded to the title, and died in 1679. The family became extinct in the male line on the death of Evelyn, second Duke of Kingston, in 1773, and it is now represented in the female line by the Earl Manvers. The Kingstons sold Tong in the early part of the last century to the Durants, who again sold it about 1856 to the late Earl of Bradford.

that we were ingaged neare the castell with all of our traine. The ennemie beate our foote backe to our horse, but God put such courage into our horsemen that upon the firste charge they beate off their foote and then charged their horse, routed them, killed manie of them, to God be the praise. The earle carried himself as gallantlie as any man could doe, though a greate manie would not staie to engage themselves. More by the next, thine till death.

“THO. MYTTON.”

PAPER No. VII.

We read in the last letter how Colonel Mytton was on his way to relieve Wem, and now we find him there. But before the following letter was written he had performed another considerable service. He and the Earl of Denbigh had taken Oswestry, 22nd June, 1644. It was somewhat about this time that Mytton had a very narrow escape of his life, and we insert the anecdote in this place, though we are not quite certain about the exact date of its occurrence.

“In the summer of 1644¹ Prince Rupert came with a great army this way, and made his rendezvous at Holloway Hill (as he had done once before and his brother Maurice at another time), and took his quarters all night at Cockshutt, and the next day he made his rendezvous at Ellesmere. At which time Mr. Mitton of Halston was general of the Parliament forces in this county and was a valiant and politick commander; and hearing the prince made only his rendezvous at Ellesmere and intended to go forward, the general hoping to find some stragglers in Ellesmere that stayd behind the army came with a troop of horse through byeways, but when he came by the gate which goes out of Oatley Parke he found that he was come too soon, for there were two or three troops of horse at Oatley Hall, which got between him and home; and therefore, when he and all his men were come through the gate they shott a horse dead up to the gate to keep it from opening, but the others soon broke down two or three rank of pails, and followed so close that all the general's men before they came to Ellesmere were taken, except the general, and one George Higley (a little fellow). At last one that had a good horse overtook the general and laid his hand on his shoulder and said, ‘You are my prisoner;’ but Higley struck the other in the face with his sword, which caused him to fall, so the general and Higley

¹ Gough's *History of Myddle*, p. 16.

turned down the dark lane that goes towards Birch Hall, and the others went straight into the town. But the general and Higley escaped, and when they came to Welsh Frankton then they staid, and one of his men came to them. The general lost his hatt, but being furnished again he went to Oswaldstree, a garrison for the Parliament.

"The next day the prince caused the prisoners to be brought before him, and ordered thirteen of them to be hanged.¹ They cast the dice on a drum-head, to see who should dye, and amongst them there was one Philip Littleton, who had been a servant and a keeper of the parke to my old master, Robert Corbett of Stanwardine, Esq. This Philip saw Sir Vincent Corbett, of Morton Corbett, ride by and said to some that stood by 'If Sir V. Corbett did know that I were here he would save my life.' Upon this a charitable soldier rode after Sir V. Corbett and told him what one of the prisoners said. He came back immediately and seeing Philipp he alighted and fell upon his knees before the prince, who sat on horseback to see the execution, and begged for the life of Philipp, which was readily granted on condition that he would never bear arms against the king. Philipp promised and escaped, and afterwards no more Irish were hanged."

"Wem, 16 July, 1644.

"To his best beloved friend Mrs. Magdalen Mytton, over against the upper end of the New Exchange, this with my best love and service, present.

"DEARE HARTE,—Will Mathews has not yet returned; I have sent thee hereby a cabinet. and therein some silver *grogaram*² and a payre of silke stockings; I received the hatte you sent. I would have the cloathes that I bought last as soon as you convenientlie send them. I am about to take the children into Oswestrie. Brother Middleton and myself intend, God willing, to take a voyage into Wales,³ if the ennemie prevent us not, by cominge against Oswestrie againe; present my service unto Mr. Pierpont and desire him that ammunition and ordnance maie be hastened unto me; [if] the Earle of Denbigh is with you, present my humble service unto him and acquainte him that even now I received his letter from Stafford by my man, and for answeere I referre all to his honor. There was a letter to have come to him at Stafford, whether it be come to him or no by reason of his speedy departure I know not; desire his lordship not to condemne me till he see me, or heare from me, and I will give him full satisfaction. My

¹ This was done in reprisal for the Irish prisoners whom the Parliament had ordered to be hanged whenever they were taken.

² "*Grogaram*, stuff woven with large woof and strong pile."—Johnson's Dictionary.

"Plain goody would no longer down,

"Twass Madame, in her grogram gown."—Swift.

³ In September in this year, 1644, Montgomery Castle, which was then garrisoned for the Parliament, and closely besieged by the Royalists, was relieved by Sir Thomas Middleton, Sir William Brereton, and Sir John Meldrum. So the Parliament have now Wem, Oswestry, and Montgomery in their hands.

deare in greate haste farewell, the Lord send us a joifull meetinge. My service to all my brothers and sisters, and all my friends, and desire all of them to pardon me for not writinge, trulie I am exceeding full of businesse.

"Thine till death,

"THO. MYTTON.

"The cabinet cannot come this time."

PAPER No. VIII.

This paper simply relates to an exchange of prisoners.

"For Colonell Mytton, Governour of Oswestrie.

"Salop, 20 July, 1644.

"SIR,—I have received the fifty men but not a man of them of this garrison. I send you back by your drum fifty men for them. My desire was and is still that those which have been longest in may be first released, therefore if you please I shall send the other fifty on Monday, and desire that ours may be prepared accordingly. I shall send your men by a drum of ours. I am entreated by my Lady Byron¹ to desire for her a gentlewoman, a mayd, and two men with their horses and accommodations. Your free passe to the prince and back to Salop to labour an exchange for her husband the . . . , I presume cannot meete with a denyall, and you shall bee sure I shall in all things carry myselte fayrely and as evenly as may bee in the exchanges.

"Sir, your servant,

"F. HUNCKES.²

"If you would be pleased to take into your consideration that these men of Cheshire, both horse and foote, may be exchanged from those parts, and that those of Shropshire may be returned thither from whence they . . . have the exchange.

"F. HUNCKES."

PAPER No. IX.

This letter is doubtless to Colonel Mytton, but the direction is absent.

"Wem, 18 Aug. 1644.

"HONORED SIR,—I received not yours with the enclosed till this day att 12 of the clocke, I cannot get the same messenger to stay for an answere from Oswaldstry whither I shall immediately send yours, and though I expect some or all of the committee here to-morrow, yet I will not delay yours. I confess ever since you went I have byne much troubled as apprehendinge your going to be of ill consequence to the publike (which I know you and all good men value most), but also to yourselve in particular. Sir, I pray you give mee leave to tell you my poore opinion that I thinke the

¹ Sir Nicholas Byron was taken prisoner at Ellesmere in 1643 by a party from the garrison of Wem. "Mercurius Aulicus" or "Court Journal", quoted by Owen and Blakeway, *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, p. 439.

² Sir Fulk Hunckes was a soldier by profession and was in the king's army from the beginning of the war. Though never actually Governor of Shrewsbury, he seems at this time to have been in chief command there. A sister of Sir Fulk married Richard Baxter's father after the death of his first wife. Colonel Hercules Hunckes is said to be of this family. He was one of the three officers to whom the warrant for executing King Charles was delivered, but he declined to sign it.

Parliament will not take away from the Committee the power granted to them; you are of the Committee, and such a one as shall never propound the thinge wilbe denied you, and in a swete concurrence busines will be so carryed on that I hope shalbe to your comfort. Sir, I humbly beg (if these lynes kiss your hands before you go to Stafford) you wilbe pleased to returne to us, I am confidant in the generall you will receave contentment, and in this particular of Captain Brayne's company you shall have your desyre, namely, that Rinke¹ shall not be captain of it. Truly I have no end but the generall good and a particular respect to you, whom God hath honored with good success hitherto, and this dissertation will I feare be imputed to you. I received a letter since you went from Sir W. Brereton, who hath promised to send us some men when Sir Thos. Middleton² drawes out his, but I beg to advise with you of such a way that we may make up once more garisons with men under your command that may not be subject to other commanders, and to this end I have conferred with H. Hassell, who will help and he desyres a letter from my Lord Bridgewater³ and Sir Arthur Mainwaring⁴ to put on their tenants. Friday night Robin Corbett⁵ was plundered and himself we hear carried to Chester. Collonell Broughton⁶ is

¹ I suppose this to be Colonel Rinckinge, who afterwards commanded at the taking of Shrewsbury.

² Sir Thomas Middleton, of Chirk, brother-in-law of Mytton, having married a daughter of Sir R. Napier, of Luton, co. Beds. After the king's defeat and execution, he changed sides, and his castle of Chirk was plundered by Cromwell. See note, *ante*.

³ John Egerton, first Earl of Bridgewater, son of Lord Chancellor Egerton, was Lord President of the Marches of Wales. He was born in 1617. He was father of the children benighted in the forest of Haywood, on whom Milton wrote his mask of Comus at Ludlow, in which he speaks of the Earl thus:—

"And all this tract, that fronts the falling sun,
A noble peer, of mickle trust and power,
Has in his charge, with tempered awe to guide
An old and haughty nation proud in arms."

He adhered to the Parliament. We extract the following from the Ottley papers, under date November, 1644—"Att a sitting of the Commissioners of Prince Rupert's his highness, in Shrewsbury, it is ordered that all the rents of ye Lord of Bridgewater that are unretained, and to be retained within this county, be received by Sir Francis Ottley, for satisfaction of all arrears due to him and his officers." He died in 1649. The earldom and other honours expired with the eighth earl, who died 1829, and the estates, after much litigation, devolved on the Earl of Brownlow.

⁴ Sir Arthur Mainwaring, of Ightfield, where the family had long been seated. He was son of Sir George Mainwaring, who had been carver to Prince Henry. In 1664 his son Charles was Sheriff of Shropshire. The estate of Ightfield was sold in 1707 to Lord Kilmorey by Arthur Mainwaring, a famous wit of the time of Queen Anne, and a prominent member of the Kit-Cat Club.

⁵ This might possibly be Robert Corbert of Stanwardine. There were four families of Corbet at this time seated in Shropshire:—

Sir Vincent Corbet, of Moreton Corbet, Bart., who was for the King.

Sir John Corbet, of Stoke and Adderly, Bart., who was for the Parliament, though his son took the other side.

Thomas Corbett of Longnor for the King.

Robert Corbett of Stanwardine for the Parliament.

The family of Corbet is, we believe, the only family in Shropshire which is of undoubted Norman descent.

⁶ We think this must be Thomas Broughton, of Staffordshire, a colonel in the King's army, who was fined £3,200 by the Parliament, and died in

made Governor of Shrewsbury, and Sir F. Hunkes is gone to Chester to the prince. A gentleman under the command of Captain Hawley came this morning from Shrewsbury unto us, and late yesternight came Dr. Wright's apothecary on his parolle for an exchange betweene Dr. Wright¹ and Sir Gerard Eyton.² I pray you let us hear your opinion of it, in the meantime we shall address him to Sir Thomas Middleton. Sir, I pray you believe I am a lover of your person and vertue, and if any imperfection appeare in me I shall acknowledg it, and impute it, I pray you to humane frayltyes, and not to any disaffection in

"Your most humble servant,

"SAM. MORE."³

PAPER NO. X.

This paper brings us to the crisis of the civil war in Shropshire, the capture of Shrewsbury, in which undertaking Col. Mytton acted a chief part. The paper consists of the written directions of the Shropshire Committee, preparatory to the attack, which was carried out with most perfect success through the assistance of friends within the walls, and through the negligence of the garrison. Two men only were killed on the parliament's side, and only five, including Capt. Needham, on the king's side. The result of the capture was to give the parliament paramount influence in the county, and to prevent supplies of men and ammunition reaching the king's army in the midland shires from Wales and the North. The list of prison-

1648. His governorship of Shrewsbury was merely temporary, Sir Michael Ernley being duly appointed about this very time. His son, Sir Bryan, was created a baronet in 1660.

¹ Dr. Wright was taken prisoner on the surrender of Brampton Bryan Castle to Sir Michael Woodhouse.

² Sir Gerard Eyton, of Eyton, near Rhuanon. His son, Sir Kendrick, was afterwards made Chief Justice of North Wales, and was one of the council of the Marches. Sir Gerard paid a fine of £457 for his loyalty.

³ Samuel More of Linley was the son of Richard More of the same place, who was M.P. for Bishop's Castle in the Long Parliament, and died in 1643. He was a very gallant and zealous supporter of the Parliament, and made an heroic defence of Hopton Castle, near Ludlow, with only a small garrison against greatly superior numbers under the command of Sir Michael Woodhouse. Eventually the castle was surrendered, and all the defenders, with the exception of More and another, were put to the sword. He was a member of the Parliament's Committee for Shropshire, and was nominated in 1656 to one of Cromwell's Parliaments. He died in 1662. His grandson, Robert More, married Catherine More of Millichope, by whom he left no children, who survived him; he was M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1754, and also mayor of the town. He died in 1780, and by his will, which is at Millichope, he leaves the family estates of Linley and Larden to Thomas and Robert Willes, with directions to assume the patronymic of More.

ers included eight knights and baronets, and forty officers, and fourteen pieces of ordnance were taken besides.

We shall here insert an extract from our old friend, Mr. Richard Baxter's autobiography, p. 46.

“ While I lived here [at Coventry], in peace and liberty, as men in a dry house do hear the storms abroad, so did we daily here the news of one fight or other, or one garrison or other won or lost; the two Newberry fights, Gloucester siege, the marvellous sieges of Plimouth Lime [probably Lynn], and Taunton, Sir William Waller's successes and losses, the loss at Newark, the slaughter at Bolton, the greatest fight of all at York, with abundance more. So that hearing such sad news on one side or other was our daily work; insomuch that as early as I awakened in the morning I expected to hear some one come and tell me ‘such a garrison is lost,’ or ‘such a defeat received or given,’ and ‘do you hear the news,’ was commonly the first word I heard. So miserable were those bloody days, in which he was the most honourable that could kill most of his enemies. But among all these I was especially pleased with the surprise of Shrewsbury, both because it was done without loss of blood, and because my father, and many of my dear friends were thereby redeemed, for when I returned from Wem, to Coventry, it happily fell out that Sir Fulk Huncks was made governor of Shrewsbury by the king, and he protected my father while he was there, but at last the gentlemen of the countrey and he agreed not, he being too much of a soldier and too civil for many of them, and they procured him to be removed, and Sir Richard [mistake for Sir Francis] Oatley first, and after Sir Michael Ernley made governors. Sir Fulk Huncks was confident when he went that their drunkenness and carelessness would shortly lose the town, and so it did indeed fall out; his old mother, the Lady Hunks, he left with my father, where she died between 80 and 100 years old, and when he was gone my father was made one of the collectors of taxes for the king, which he justly performed, but he would not forcibly distrain of them that refused to pay, as not knowing that hereafter they might recover it all of him; for which he was laid in prison by them that swore he should lie and rot there; but he had not been there but a few weeks, before the keeper in the night came to him and begged his favour to save him and his house, for the parliament's souldiers had surprised the town. My father would not believe it, till he heard and saw that which compelled his belief, and with what joy I need not tell.”

“Wem, Feb. 14, 1644-5.

“It is this day ordered that Lieutenant-Col. Rinkinge,¹ doe command the partie of horse and foote which shall this night be sent out accordinge to the order of the Commyttee, and that Collonell Mytton, Col. Lloyd, Col. Hunt, and Captayne Robert Clive doe go along with the said party, and that noe one shall have power to give any orders for the manageing of the design except the said Leiuetenant-Collonell, without the consent and directions of the gentlemen of the Commytte, which shall go out with him.

“AND. LLOYD.²

“RO. CLIVE.³

“SAM. MORE.⁴

“THOMAS HUNT.⁵

“ROBT. CHARLTON.⁶

“LEIGH OWEN.⁷

¹ Colonel Reinking was afterwards taken prisoner in an attack upon Lord Newport's house of High Ercall, and we hear little more of him in these parts.

² Col. Andrew Lloyd, of Aston, near Oswestry, where the family had been long seated. He married Margaret, daughter of his neighbour, Thomas Powell of Park. He was M.P. for Shropshire in Cromwell's parliament of 1656. On the death of his great grandson, Robert Lloyd, in 1734, without issue, the property devolved on the issue of his granddaughter Elizabeth, who married Fulk Lloyd of Foxhall, county Denbigh, from whom descends the present R. T. Lloyd, Esq.

³ Robert Clive of Styche, which had been the home of the family for several generations. He married Mary, daughter of Sir E. Abyn, knight. He was M.P. for Bridgnorth in the Long Parliament, and was a zealous supporter of the Parliament. If we may believe the rhyme composed of him by the royalists, he must have been almost as great a terror to his enemies as was his renowned descendant (great-great-grandson) Lord Clive of Plassey.

“From Wem and Wych

“And Clive of Styche

“God Lord deliver us.”

By Wych is intended Nantwich, a stronghold of the Roundheads. He was sequestrator of the Royalists' estates in 1644, and in 1674 he was sheriff of Shropshire. From this Robert Clive the present Earl of Powis is lineally descended.

⁴ Samuel More, see *ante*.

⁵ Thomas Hunt, see *ante*.

⁶ Robert Charlton of Apley was son of Francis Charlton of Apley Castle. His elder brother Francis was on the king's side, and his house was stormed by the Parliamentary forces. Robert was M.P. for Bridgnorth in 1640.

⁷ Leighton Owen of Braggington was the son of Robert Owen of Woodhouse, who was sheriff of Shropshire in 1618, and his third wife Mary, daughter of Thomas Leighton of Wattlesborough.

"This is a true copie of the first order teste Frattinke (?) script."

"Feb. 21st.

"It is this day ordered that Leiuetenant-Col. Reinkinge do command the parties upon this present designe, and that he do informe all the souldiers both of horse and foote that in case the designe be effected that £2000 shall be given unto the Staffordshire and Cheshire horse and foote under the command of Colonell Bowyer, and that a like proporcion shal be allowed unto the Shropshire forces under the commande of the Commyttee of this county, and that the said Leiuetenant-Col. may assure all those who shall expresse their valour more particularly than others in attemptinge this design, that they shall have extraordinary satisfaccion, as he shall thinke fitt; and the said Leiutenant-Col. is to give notice that yf any souldier after his entry into the towne of Salop, shall plunder anythinge that such soldier shall not onely lose his present reward, but be proceeded agaynst for tryall of his life, accordinge to the marshall law.

"AND. LLOYD.

"RO. CLIVE.

"SAM. MORE.

"THO. HUNT.

"ROBT. CHARLTON.

"LEIGH OWEN.

"Copia vera concordat cum originali teste Frattinke."

The design, as we have said, succeeded completely. Colonel Reinking made his way in boats up the river, and breaking down a palisado with his carpenters, not without assistance from friends within the town, effected an entrance, and opened the gate in the castle

"He was a fierce parliamentary, an early captain in their army, a commissioner under the act for what was called propagating the gospel in Wales in 1650." (Blakeway's *Sheriffs of Shropshire*.) His house at Braggington was licensed as a conventicle. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Powell of Park, and was therefore brother-in-law of Andrew Lloyd of Aston, another of the Shropshire Committee. This branch of the Owens became extinct in the male line on the death of Thomas, the son of Leighton Owen, whose sister Martha carried the property to the family of Griffiths, of whom Samuel Griffiths was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1759, and his brother Joseph in 1771. The manor of Braggington, formerly a member of the Wattlesborough estates of the Leightons, together with a manor-house built by Thomas Owen in 1673, was repurchased in 1849 by the late Sir Baldwin Leighton, from Mr. Parr, who had purchased it in 1822 from the family of Griffiths.

Foregate for Colonel Mytton and the cavalry, and they marched down together to the market square, where poor Captain Needham turned out with his guard, and was killed, and the whole town was in the hands of the parliamentary troops before morning.

The garrison was weak because Prince Maurice had drawn away a large part of the troops to relieve Chester, and had not returned.

PAPER No. XI.

Colonel Mytton desired the governorship of Shrewsbury, but this he was denied, and after an interregnum during which the Shropshire Committee kept it in their own hands, Humphrey Machworth was appointed governor. Colonel Mytton, however, received the thanks of parliament for his services at the taking of Shrewsbury, was made parliamentary sheriff of the county, and was given the command in chief of all the forces in North Wales. To this year we assign the following paper, which is undated—

“To the Right Honourable the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament.

“This most humble petition of the wel affected gentry, officers, souldiers, and other, the inhabitants in the towne and county of Sallop.

“Most humbly sheweth how deeply they are saddened with the absence of Col. Mytton, who hath merited much and binne soe happy and successfull in his undertakings, that the hartes and affections of us all are wholly set upon him, havinge to our comfort and preservation faithfully performed the trust reposed in him soe that if hee should bee removed and not have the command of this county included in his commission, the service of the State would be much retarded, this county hazarded, and altogether unsatisfied.

“Wee therefore most humbly crave that your honours would be pleased to conferre upon him, the said Col. Mytton, the commandinge place in chiefe of the towne and county of Salopp, under whom we are most willinge to live and dye, and venture our estates in the defence of the kinge and parliament, and will ever pray.”

(To be continued.)

MYTTON MANUSCRIPTS.

LETTERS AND PAPERS OF THOMAS MYTTON, OF HALSTON, ESQ.,

(*Sometime Major-General of the Parliament's Army in North Wales,
1642 to 1655.*)

(*Continued from page 376 of Vol. vii.*)

PAPER XII.

WITH the capture of Shrewsbury, the scene of Gen. Mytton's activities was changed. Shropshire was now altogether in the hands of the Parliament, but North Wales, from Anglesey to the Cheshire border, was garrisoned for the King, and reinforcements were being poured in at Holyhead as fast as the Duke of Ormonde could send them across the water. The task of reducing North Wales was entrusted to Gen. Mytton. The Civil War had now raged throughout England for three years, yet the issue still seemed doubtful. With his head-quarters at Oxford, the King held the strong castles of Wallingford, Worcester, Newark, and Hereford, in the centre of his kingdom,—Chester in the north-west, Bristol in the south-west, the former backed by North Wales and succours from Ireland, the latter supported by South Wales and the counties of Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset. The rout of Prince Rupert at Marston Moor had, indeed, made the Parliament paramount in the north, but nevertheless, in the summer of 1645, the King was at the head of an army equal in point of numbers to any which could be brought against him. We all know how that army was shattered on the 14th of June, 1645, at Naseby.

In the August following Bristol fell.

In the February following Chester fell.

We must, however, turn our attention to North Wales, where General Mytton held command. As owner of the lordship of Dinas Mawddwy, which extends into the counties of Merioneth and Montgomery, he was fighting partly on his own ground, and, like his brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Myddleton, whose castle of Chirk was one of the king's garrisons in spite of its owner, he could only set foot there by force of arms. The previous history of North Wales from the beginning of the Civil War had been remarkable. It was in 1642 garrisoned for the King. In the second year of the War, Sir William Brereton brought it under the dominion of the Parliament. When, however, the Irish reinforcements began to arrive, the Cavaliers were able in their turn to drive out the Roundheads, and the Principality was again held for the King. It was now General Mytton's business to try to reduce it a second time. At the opening of the campaign of 1645, Sir John Watts was Cavalier Governor of Chirk, Sir William Neale of Hawarden Castle, Colonel William Salesbury of Denbigh, Sir Richard Lloyd of Holt, Sir John Owen of Conway, Lord Bulkeley of Beaumaris, Colonel William Owen of Harlech. Lord Byron was governor of Chester, and when he surrendered Chester to Sir William Brereton on the 6th of February, 1646, he retired to Caernarvon, and became the Cavalier Captain-General of North Wales. One after the other, all these castles were reduced by General Mytton and his lieutenants, Colonel Roger Pope, his son-in-law, Colonel John Jones, the regicide, Colonel Carter, Colonel Twistleton, Captain Richard Price, and Captain Simkies.

We regret that General Mytton's correspondence is extremely scanty during this eventful period. Indeed, the following gossiping letter from his brother-in-law, Richard Napier, is the only letter we have. No doubt "he was full of business" all the time.

“To his much honoured Brother, Collonell Mytton, commander in chiefe of all the Forces in North Wales, give this—

“London, November 24, 1645.

“SIR,—I know you are full of Businesse, and yet you will spare so much time as to cast your eye on a few lines from your friends, who doe heartily wish you health, happiness, and all good Fortunes. Your businesses heere have, I hope, received a despatch to your owne content and desire, and if my Paynes may be any wayes usefull to you heere, you shall finde me more ready and willing to act it, then my pen is able to expresse. I must intreate the continuance of your favour to my cozen, Mr. James Napier, who I dare say will be very faithful to you, and prove a stout captaine, if you please to confer that honour upon him, and what favour you please to show him, I shall take it as done unto myselfe, and will ever remayne,

“Your most assured loving Brother,

“RICHARD NAPIER.

“The horse you left at Lynford (when the gray gelding was taken away) is dead. The next tyme you beate up the enemy's quarters and take any of their horse, I pray take one for me, and send it me, in steede of that of myne which was taken by the Cavaliers from a messenger my sister sent to you to Shrewsbury.”

(*Seal*.—A crest—a bird standing on a cap of maintenance.)

PAPER XIII.

After his defeat at Naseby (14 June, 1645), poor King Charles led the miserable life of a fugitive. He wandered hither and thither without any fixed plan. He visited Ragland Castle and South Wales; he visited Chester and North Wales, and while in these parts his followers were worsted on Rowton Heath. He then wandered back again to Ragland, and at last got into winter quarters at Newark. His hopes seemed now to centre not in the strength of his friends, but in the dissensions of his enemies, and in May 1646, he placed himself in the hands of the Scottish army at Newcastle. From Newcastle he issued the following declaration, which amounted to a surrender at discretion;—

“CHARLES REX.

“His Majestic being with greate greefe of harte upon the sad sufferinge of his people in his 3 kingdomes some years past, and being affected with their distresses and unquiet condicion through

the distractions about religion, the keepinge of force on foot in the Fields and Garisons, the not satisfieing of publike debts, and the feares of further effusion of blood by continuinge an unnaturall war in any of the Kingdomes, or by renting or devidinge these Kingdoms, soe happily united; and havinge lately sent a gracious message unto both houses of Parliament and Commissioners of the Parliament of Scotland expressing the necessary causes of his cominge from Oxford unto the Scottish army without any intencion to make a division wheare he is in freedom and right capacity to settle a true peace, and contayninge such offers as he conceived would have beene accepted with a generall clause of complyeing with their designes, and beinge impatient of delayes, and not acquainted with particulars which may give contentment to them, His Majestie doth earnestly desier that the proposicions of peace soe often promised, and soe much expected, may be speedily sent unto him, that upon consideration of them he may applye him selfe to give such satisfaccion as may be the foundation of a firme peace. And for the better and more speedy attaininge thereunto, His Majestie doth further propound that he may come to London with safetie, freedom, and honour, where he resolves to comply with his houses of Parliament in every thinge which may be most for the good of his subjects, and perfect what remaines for settlinge both Kinge and people in a happy condicion, beinge likewise confident that they will be zealous in the mayntenance of his honour, and just and lawful righte, as his Majestie desieth the houses of Parliament to disburthen the Kingdome of all forces and garisons in their power except such as before these unhappy tymes have been mayntayned for the necessary safety of this kingdome. So he is willinge to disband all his forces and garisons within the same, as the inclosed order will evidence, herewith sent, and if upon these offers his Majestie shall have such satisfaccion as he may be confident a firme peace shall ensue thereupon, his Majestie will then give order for his sonn, the Prince, his present returne.

“Newcastle, 20 June, 1646.”

“For the Speaker of the House of Peares pro tempore, to be communicated to the Lords and Comms assembled in the Parliament of England at Westminster, and Commissioners of Parliament in Scotland,—

“CHARLES REX.

“Havinge resolved to comply with the designes of Parliament in every thinge which may be for the good of the subject, and leave no meanes unescaped for removinge of differences betwixt us. Therefore we have thought fitt, the more to evidence the reality of our intentions of setlinge a happie and firme peace, to require you, upon honourable condicions, to quitt those Townes, and Castles, and Fortes intrusted to you by us, and to disband all the forces under their severall commands. 10 June.

"To our trusty and well beloved Sir Thomas Glenham, Sir Thomas Tilsley, Colonell Hen. Washaintan, Colonell Thomas Blayne, Governors of our Townes and city of Oxford, Worcester, and Wallingford, and all other commanders of any of our Townes, Castles, or forts within the Kingdome of England or dominion of Wales."

PAPER XIV.

The following letter discloses the intrigues and difficulties which followed upon the successes of the Parliament. The country was partitioned out into military districts, and each district was governed by a major-general. A county committee, under the superintendence of a central committee, which sat in London, assisted the major-generals. All places of honour and profit were conferred by a committee of Parliament. So we find General Mytton's confidential correspondent, whose name unluckily is illegible, urges him to get himself elected to Parliament, "for no men will be valued but they." At the close of his letter he says—"I am sorry the Custos Rotulorum of Merioneth was gott before I came up, otherwise I might have had it for you." Evidently, in the scramble for appointments, it was well to have a friend at the head-quarters of patronage. One of the duties of the local committees was to sequester the estates of all who had been in arms for the King, a policy admirably adapted to cripple the resources of the Royalists, and to raise funds for the Parliament without the need of unpopular taxes.

During the year 1647 there was hardly any fighting. But the differences between the party styled "Independents", at whose head was Oliver Cromwell, and the party styled "Presbyterians", were growing ever wider and wider. The King's last hope lay in his ability to foment these divisions, and so, as we have seen, he placed himself in the hands of the Scots, so as to be in a sort of neutral position; but in February 1647, the Scots having got their expenses paid, handed the King over to the Parliament, and he was removed

from Newcastle to Holmby House, in Northamptonshire.

“For the ho^{ble} Major Generall Tho. Mytton, att Shrewsbury, Halston, or elsewhere hast theis, I pray you,—

“Friday noone, 9th April, 1647.

“HON^{BLE} SIR,—“Since I writt by poste there was an expectation that some friends should have moved according as your Lady writt, but for my parte, I knewe that it was plotted and contrived before hand to bring in another partie for those partts, vizt., Collo. Nedham¹, whoe was some tymes Governor of Leicester, whoe hath the commande of Shropshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire, for a Regiment of horse, subordinate under his excelency, but yesterday they voted a hundred horse and a hundred dragowns for North Wales, in like maner under his excelency, and you weare to comaund them, but whether any pay or noe it will be a quere, at the most but a captain’s pay can be expected; and this they call a respect to you because you formerly commaunded those parts, they have done as much for Major Generall Langharne², and he hath the like number allotted for South Wales. The vote styles you Major General, and to continew your command, with the addition of horse and dragownes.

“This present Thursday also Collo. Michael Jones was voted Governor of Dublyn, hee being but deputy Governor before. They also voted that an ordinance shall come in to take off all power in Comittees to leave Taxes, and noe impositions at all but the 60,000 . . . and the excise wil be in the kingdome allowed a conference desired by the Lords to this purpose. The members of the howse for North Wales have agreed that noe sequestration shal be of any but Papist and excepted persons, and such that Articled in Castles, and they write their letters to the Comittees, and agents to this purpose, which proceedings this bearer, Mr. Merrick, can shewe you.

“Livr. Coll. Twistleton is to have a letter from the members of North Wales for £500 more to bee added to the £3000 already leavyed. It had bine better had a little more patience it would have proved better for the soldyers. Their accompts must be rated, and no doubt but course will be taken to procede as for other countreys,

¹ One of the Needhams of Shavington; the head of the family was on the King’s side, and one of the same family was slain at the taking of Shrewsbury.

² Major-General Rowland Langharne was in chief command for the Parliament in South Wales. Both he and his brother, Major Thomas Langharne, changed sides in 1648, and headed a rebellion against the Parliament, which was put down by Cromwell himself. Rowland Langharne underwent sentence of death, which was commuted to exile beyond the seas.

but if great care were not taken this prosecution for moneys for them that disband before you have listed those for Ireland might have hindered your engagement to the house for your number. However, it will yet doe.

"I wonder that Collo. Kinaston doeth forestowe his business in sending up names; that Comittee sitts every day nowe till they have finished. Comissions yesterday graunted for Kynaston, Napper, and Farrer, and wonder noe more names come. I have sent you a coppie of the order inclosed, which I mentioned in my last; you will be occaconed to come upp, all that love you desier you neglect not to bee a member of the house, noe men will be valued but they, I neede say no more. I wish your busines were done, that I might out of towne. The Shropshire elleccion will fall upon the poynt of the pole, and they say 5000 hands have subscribed against you. One talked of a grannd jury that had done something, whoe was checkt for his paynes, and tould that a jury had little to doe to meddle with affayres of Parliament. Since writing hearof I attended the North Wales Comittee this fridaye morninge, and Livt. Co: Twisleton presented them with a letter of his owne penning, which was disliked, and Mr. Recorder drew another, which I was desired to translaite and presente for theire handes. I think it would cure your could with laughing if you had time present at some passages.

"I was caught napping by Mr. Recorder in relating the business in some particular contradicions upon repetition, he thought hee had bine amonge a countrey Comittee. I have noe tyme to add more, but in a note by itselfe I have gott the added, as this formerly expresses. Yours, to serve you,—T. Eds.

"Before I sealed this letter Wm. Mathewes came to Towne, by whome I received yours, and shall emediately performe as much as can bee done, but much feare theire will be noe prevencon of his coming into the house, as I formerly writt.

"The house intends to putt all comissioners of array out of commission of the peace, and theire names are to be presented in Wales by Sir Tho. M. [*i.e.*, Mydelton.]

"This day the Comittee betwixt Vaughan and Sir T. mett, and the partes wrangled to the purpose, and soe another day appoynted.

"The business of Newcastle is most eagerlie pursued, and it's thought yours will come on within a month, but in my apprehension it can hardly be soe soone. I should be glad to knowe somethinge of your resolucion in what way you intend to settle, for I am offered imployment in relacion to a Judge, which will be of advantage, but will not engage till I knowe your pleasure.

"I am sorry the Custos Rotulorum of Merioneth was gott before I came up, otherwise I might have had it for you."

(*Seal of Arms*.—A chevron between three foxes (?) heads erased.)

PAPER XV.

A year of troubled peace has passed away, and civil war has broken out afresh. In South Wales, Rowland and Thomas Langharne, two brothers, who had formerly served the Parliament, changed sides, and headed an outbreak of Cavaliers and Presbyterians combined. Lieutenant-General Oliver Cromwell was sent down to take the command against them. He had no sooner succeeded in his mission than he was called away to Scotland, where more serious disturbances demanded the master's iron hand. In the meantime, Sir John Owen raised the King's standard in North Wales, and we shall see in the following letters how General Mytton and his lieutenants disposed of him:—

“To the Honorable Major Generall Mytton, theise humbly present
with speed.

“*Blacffreyers, 9 May [1648].*

“SIR,—I made all the haest I could hyther, but the way and the weather being verry badd, and my horses not good, I could not reach hyther untill yesternight late. This morning I deleivered both your letters; that to the leift. generall I delivered to Commander generall Ireton, the leift. generall being gone into South Wales. He hath appointed me to goe to the Generall to-morrowe for a peremptory order, which I shall not fail to doe. He promises to doe what he can to helpe you speedily to moneys. Mr. Pearpoint¹, upon the delivery offis, appointed me to waytt upon the committee at Derby howse this afternoone, which accordingly I did. They demanded where the Lord Bulkley's man was, I satisfied them I mett with him retorning home, and that his letters were come up per post, which I accidentally sawe this daye in a gentleman's hand at the howse of Commons' dore. I found him reading a certificate from Coll. Mason certefying the relacion of his men that were at Bewmaris Castle of the Lord Bulkeley's care to preserve yt when yt was in danger to be lost, but no one else menconed in yt a letter subscribed to one Bulckley of the house. The chief papers could see nothing of; this I menconed not to them. The Committee asked me whether I

¹ See note *ante*, vol. vii, p. 367.

² Viscount Bulkley acted a singularly safe part during the troubles, always siding with the party which was at the time uppermost.

had any more to deliver. I answered not. They told me they would send to you an answer by this post, and a duplicate of yt by me, which before I come downe I shall call for. I procured money to bringe me up here. Howe to gett downe I knowe not. I hope to meete with some friend will furnish me, and I intend after Monday next, when I see whether any further direccions will come from you, to haste downe, and upon Thursday following at farthest to be with you. The Londoners this day presented another petition to the house, for the Tower of London, and the militia to be with them, which was assented unto. The newes from the North is verry true of Glenham and Langdall's getting into a body and taking and garrisoning Carlile and Barwick. The Scots declaration I have sent you, and am, sir, your faithful servānt,

“ED. MOORE.

“Blackfryers, 9th May.

“Little yet from South Wales.”

(*Seal*.—A heart in flames.)

PAPER XVI.

This letter indicates the pecuniary straits in which a major-general might find himself, and the sort of relations which existed between him and his committee.

“To the Hon^{ble} Major General Mytton, at Bewmaris or elsewhere,
these present—

“Wrexham, the 11th of May, 1648.

“HON^{BLE} SIR,—The Governor of Denbigh did communicate your letter dated the 8th of May, at Bewmaris unto us, the contents whereof wee have duly weighed. Wee are very sorrie it lyes not in eur power to procure the money you desire. Our credits we will freely engage with you, and our purses we would had wee any; for wee are very sensible of the consequence of this Island. But truely, Sir, the feare that is begunne in this Kingdome doth soe threaten these parts, that God grant all we can possibly doe may serve these partes, and in order thereunto you may perceive by what we have presented, and commended to this Island, that wee have not beene idle, but are under such ingagements that all wee can doe wilbee little enough to answeare them. Wee cannot but hope that the gentlemen of the county who are so much concerned in the businesse will take care to improve their interests therein, as well out of respect to

the Parliament as to the quiett and settlement of their own country.

Wee are, Sir,

Your honour's most humble Servants,

¹ WM. MYDDELTON.

² ROGER HANMER, VIC. FLYNT.

³ JO. JONES.

THO: BATT.

⁴ JNO. CARTER.

⁵ GEORGE TWISLETON."

(*Twistleton's Seal*.—Arms, a chevron between three armadilloes.)

PAPER XVII.

The following six letters come in rapid sequence, and give a graphic account of Sir John Owen's ineffectual rising in Merioneth. They need no explanation nor comment.

"To the Hon^{ble} Gen^l Mytton, this humbly present: Carnarvon.

"Rug, Thursday, 11 of the cloche in the morning, being May 26th, 1648.

"HON^{BLE} SIR,—I received yours by this bearer. I cannot possibly comand this party to martch, as you desire. The whole consisted not of 80 men, neare 30 of them volunteers from and about Wrexham, who rode upon their owne horses, and neare 30 my owne Garrison men, whome I horsed and made dragoones, the rest Colo^l Jones his troope, most of them weakly horsed. The first, I say, I cannot commande; the 2nd cannot be spared out of the garrison, and the 3d so spent, and soe are all the reste that they cannot stirre untill refreshed. These 3 days and nights I have constantly martched day and night with out any intermission save onely bayteings, and I was forced to it, as you will perceive hereafter in the relacon I shall give your honour. It grieves me much that I cannot answeare your

¹ Brother of Sir Thomas Myddleton of Chirk.

² It seems strange to see the name of Hanmer among the Parliamentary Sheriffs of Flintshire, and it is another instance, of which there are many, of different members of a family taking opposite sides. The head of the family, Sir Thomas Hanmer, Knt., M.P. for Flint, cup-bearer to Charles I, raised two troops of horse for his master, and was amply recompensed at the restoration by a grant of crown lands. His cousin, Thomas Hanmer of the Fenns, was on the king's side too. The present Lord Hanmer of Hanmer is of this family.

³ A colonel in the Parliamentary army.

⁴ A colonel in the Parliamentary army.

⁵ A colonel in the Parliamentary army.

comands soe fully as you desire, but I doe my utmost, and will prepare with all the speede I canne for a march. I have written unto Montgomeryshire to sende what forces they could posibly to the passes betwixt this county and that, and if you could in Carnarvonshire remove Sir John¹ out of that county and secure the passes, I would hope to gett forces out of other countreys to fall upon him and to make sure of him one way or the other. I have not found that assistance from the gentlemen of this county as I expected. I thought they would have raised the posse comitatus, wherein the sheriff was very forward, and that they would have appeared themselves to have engaged the countrey ; a day and place was appointed

¹ Sir John Owen of Clenneny and Porkington. He was the eldest son of John Owen, who, by his marriage with Ellen, daughter and heir of Sir William Morris, became possessed of these two estates. Porkington, near Oswestry, was for many generations the home of the Lacons, from whom it passed, through an heiress, in the 16th century, to the family of Morris. Sir John Owen was Vice-Admiral of North Wales, and one of the most resolute supporters of the Royal cause in these parts. At the siege of Bristol he was wounded ; in 1645 he was governor of Conway, and now, in 1648, we find him in arms again for the king. In this year he besieged General Mytton in Caernarvon, and, in a sally of the besiegers, he succeeded in taking William Lloyd, Sheriff of Caernarvonshire, prisoner. Sir John Owen carried the unfortunate sheriff, who was wounded, about with him in his marches to and fro till he died. At the battle of Llandegai, shortly after, Sir John himself fell a prisoner into the hands of the Parliament, and was tried for treason in London, together with the Duke of Hamilton, the Earl of Holland, and Lords Capel and Goring. On being called upon for his defence, he replied that he was a poor gentleman from Wales, who had always been taught to obey the king. All the prisoners were condemned to death, and, while great efforts were being made to save the others, none were made to save Sir John. Whereupon Ireton spoke for him in Parliament in this manner: "that there was one person for whom no one spoke a word ; and therefore requested he might be saved by the mere motive and goodness of the House." Sir John was forthwith pardoned. There is a rapier at Porkington inscribed with these words: "Lord Capel, the day before his execution, presented this sword to Sir John Owen, by whom he said he was convinced that it would be worn with honour." He died in 1666. His brother, William, was also a distinguished Royalist, and was governor of Harlech Castle. From the Owens, the estate has passed to the family of Ormsby, and from them to the family of Gore. Mr. Ormsby Gore, M.P., the present (1875) owner has changed the old name of Porkington, which the house has borne for many centuries, to Brogynton, the name of an entrenchment in a neighbouring field. The two names are said to have the same derivation.

to meete with them, that this might have beene put in to execucion, but not one of the gentlemen appeared save the under sheriff from the sheriff, who could not be there himself in regard of his lameness that hath troubled him these many weekes past. I shall humbly entreate your honour to believe there is nothing should disappoint your commands but an absolute necessity, which I hope wilbe very sodanelly removed, and there shall no endeavour of mine bee wanting. I will write to you, and hope within a day or two to give you an accounte of what number and what tyme, I shall procure to march with and bee able to march att. I shall now give your honour a relation of our proceedes, and the success after we came to Balla. Hearinge that the enemy lay at Dolgelle, I sente a party of horse before to make what discovery they could and to gayne intelligence, and if they hearde of any straglers of the enemy, was gone to fall in upon them, which they did, and tooke 3, and returned mee that the enemy was gone from Dolgelle. When I came there I sente out another party towards Harleigh, hearinge they were fledd that way, but by them and other meanes I used I understood they were gone into Carnarvonshire, and soe farre and beinge soe well horsed that we concluded it was impossible for us to follow them, where upon, hearinge of the march of a party of foote from Machuntleth that were to join with Owen's that came out of Cardiganshire, and that they quartered 2 myles of this side Machuntleth, att a place called Pennell, I stayed not above 2 howeres att Dolgelle before I marched away with all the speede I could that night, being Monday att night . . . and gotte thether by day, which was 13 or 14 the craggiest and longest myles I ever travelled; but when I came there the foote were gone the after noone before to Bermo; I did immediately follow them, and hearinge Owens was to joyne with them that night at Bermo or on the other side of the water, after I had sente out a party as well to make discoverie what horse they had with the foote as to secure the boate which was to ferry them over, I march as fast as I could, and by 10 of the cloche gott within a myle of them, and receiving from the party that their horse that they had, which was 20, was gone over the ferry, and that the foote was preparinge to march from the towne 2 myles from it, where they were refreshing themselves, and that they had passed to the ferry undiscovered, and secured it. I march immediately away, and commanded none to make the least shew as being an ennemy, niether did I sende out scowtes, haveing had perfect informacion of their condicion before, but haveing given it out I was a friend and some of those horse that I had intelligence they expected out of Cardigansheir. I came amongst them as they were in a body, ready to march, and tooke most of them, to the number of 43 private soldiers and their colours, and their officers all, the captaine (whose name is Lloyd, a Cardigansheir man), their lievtenant (whose Thackery), and their ensigne, and also with them were tooke Lievt. Collonell Vaughan and Gen'll Langhorne's brother, Hugh Langhorne, hardly escaped. All this while Owens was on the other side of the water, whome I ex-

pected upon my quarters. That night, after we had refreshed ourselves and horses, wee marched on Tuesday to Dolgelle; and att 12 o'clocke that night, receiving several waies intelligence that the enemy would bee upon our quarters, and concerning the probability of it as well in regard of his strength, which for numbers was as many more as mine, and exceedingly well horsed, and beleiving them to have a disposition to relieve their prisoners, and knowing how weary and tyred both our men and horses were, after 4 houres rest and refreshment, wee marched towards Balla, and by 10 of the cloche on Weddensday gatt thither, and that night came to these partes; had wee not taken those men upon the very nick of tyme they had that night joyned with Owens, and how advantageous it would have been to the enemy, and the contrary to us, I was very apprehensive. I tooke some letters from Capt. Lloyd, and one of them figured as that from Anglesey. That which I could gather from the letters and from discourse was that they have invited the horse in South Wales into the countrey, and expecte with them 300 foote out of Cardiganshire, of which I have given advertisement into Montgomeryshire, if they may doe what they can to give them a stopp, if it prove true, which I confess I doe not believe, for I tooke Sir Walter Lloyd and his sonne, and a kinsman, who all of them say they are all driven into garrisons, and had detayned them, but that they had protections from Horton. They said he was now advanced into Pembrokshire. By this relacion your honour willbe satisfied that it is nothing but an impossibility upon mee that hinders the present execucion of your commands, having so many prisoners, which in all were, with the officers and them I tooke before, at least 50, I could not divide, till I had secured them, neither stirr untill I had refreshed and rested ourselves and horses, that by this time were sufficiently weary. We have not lost one prisoner. I have no more at present, onely lett me entreate your honour to esteeme me,

"Your very reall and humble Servt.,

"GEORGE TWISLETON.

"I could not answer yours of the 22nd before now, neither that of the 10th, for powder and arms, which cannot come in securely without a convoy, and which I conceive you may be better furnished with by the garrisons of this country. I haveing no armes but what I fixed myself, and will sufficiently supply us and our friends in these partes, when we have occasion, yet what canne bee donne shallbee donne at your honour's comande."

(*Seal of Arms*—A chevron between three armadilloes).

PAPER XVIII.

"For my honoured friend Coll. Twisleton, Governor of Denbigh.

"Carnarvon, 27 of May, 1648.

SIR,—I think it fitt that you prepare all the force you can make

to be ready against the auxiliaries come up, and to send out one party with all possible speed. As soone as they be come, or rather before (if you think your party will be able to match Sir John), to secure Bermo, that they do not escape into South Wales, and lett the other party come by way of Llanrwst, as I wrote formerly.

"If he alter his quarters or encrease his strength, you shall heare all I can learne concerninge either. I cannot heare that he is compleatt 100 horse and dragoones. I beleave their horse will be all loath to deuide, otherewise 60 of them, and some dragoones to secure their quarters, and some passes, would be sufficient for me. Let us every day keepe instant intelligence. I am glad you have sent for these horse. My first letter to you, had Coll. Carter met with you to have imparted it to you was to this effect:—I feare they cannot be with you soe soone as you write, I gueshe you would not send for them till Friday. I am,

Your faithfull friend to serve you,

"THO. MYTTON.

"I sente one this morninge by Lt. Wynne, and one to Coll. Aldersey and Coll. Jones. I have written to the Speaker to know what to do with the prisoners."

PAPER XIX.

"To the Honble Major Genll. Mytton, att Carnarvon, this humbly present—

"Denbigh, May 29th, 1648, Monday Morninge,
by 5 of the clocke.

"HONBLE. SIR,—I received two letters from you dated the same day, the 27th instant, one from Lievtent Wynne, another from Collo'll Carter; this, I perceive, was last writtene. Your honour's opinion of securinge the pass att Bermo, and martchinge another party to you to inable you to ingadge, suits with what I formerly presented you with. To-morrow we shallbe able to give you some certainty of our condicion both for our number and tyme of march. I am to meete the Montgomeryshire gentlemen att Ruthin, who I hope will cordially joyne, which will not a little avayle. If they doe, the High Sheriff of Montgomeryshire, Mr. Edw. Vaughan,¹ Coll'll. Price,

¹ "Edwardus Vaughan ar" appears on the roll of J.P.'s for the county of Montgomery. He was probably the fourth son of Owen ap John ap Owen Vaughan, of Llwydiarth. He entered a member of the Inner Temple in 1618. "Matthew Morgan Ar Vic." signs the above roll as high sheriff 23 Charles I, 1648. (W. V. Ll.)

Colonel Hugh Price, of the Parliament army, was seated at Gwern-ygo, formerly a seat of the Leighton family, in the parish of Kerry. He served the office of sheriff for Montgomeryshire in 1654-5, and

and some others of the gentlemen of the county assured me once by their litters to mee that all the force they could make should bee att Llanvaier this day to joyne with us. I shall heare this night whether the adjutant genll's horse will come. If they doe not, I hope our and Montgomeryshire strength conjoynd willbe able, with your assisting, to deale with Sir John. On Fryday, att night att 12 of the clocke, Capt. Thelwall's¹ man gave us an allarum that he, coming with some armes from Flynt, at Pot Ferry, was stopt by the Cavaliers, and the armes seized upon, and himself detayned prisoner, but slipt away to bring us the intelligence there was neare 100 armes. I immediately sente out some foote, and after them all the horse I could make, who overtooke the carriadge and armes, but the Cavaliers were fledd, and after some of them saught for, but could not be founde. The fellow knew 3 that was there,—Major Evel, Major Spicer, and Lievt. Griffith. I have sente to the Comte. of Flyntshire, who I thinke have taken some engagement from his father-in-law, Mr. Evans, for Evel, and with all to some friends to gayne intelligence of his and their mocions, that if it be possible I may snapp them. I think in my relacion to your honour of the late busyness I acquainted you that I would not engage untill I had assurance of Sir John's being on the other side of the water, and I had secured the pass—I meane the ferry boate, and for my retreat. If the worst had come to the worst, I could have made it good by Machunleth, and soe thourough Montgomeryshire, which, from that place, was not much aboute which wee were resolved upon att the first, I shall send your letter to Coll. Aldersey. Coll. Jones is gone to London. I am,

“Your honour's most humble servt.,

“GEORGE TWISLETON.

“I must humbly entreate your honour to bethinke of some speedy course for a store of ammunition. My stocke is too slender, and cannot afforde any supply with security to the chardge I am to answeare for: but I shall doe what I canne to answeare your commands therein. For the rest, I am,

“Your humblest servt.,

“G. T.”

(Seal as before.)

represented the county in the Parliament of 1656-8. For further particulars of Colonel Price, see *Mont. Coll.*, vol. vii, p. 184, n. 3, p. 197, n. 1. (W. V. Ll.)

¹ Of the family of Thelwalls, of Plas-y-ward. The heiress of this family, Jane, married, in the beginning of the 18th century, Sir William Williams, the father of the first Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.

PAPER XX.

"To the Honble. Genll. Mytton this, att Carnarvon present, hast,
hast, poast haste.

"Denb., May 29th, 1648, 10 att night.

"HONBLE. SIR,—I received yours dated this day just now, since which tyme I have sente to Wrexham, to the horse in those partes (that I appointed to bee in readynes, and intended to have marched by the way of Meryoneth), to come upp to Denbigh, and also all the force that is in Montgomeryshire, that promised to bee in readynes this day att Llanvaire. I have sente for and have poasted another letter, not hearinge of auxiliaries, to Warrington, to Adjut. Genll. Blackmore ; and, fearinge least they should faile us, I have written to the Governor of Chester, to helpe us with sixty horse and sixty Dragoones, which I am confidant hee will spare us att present. I have appointed Collonell Jones his troope to march with all speede to you, and to joine with some foote of Collonell Carter's ; and as soon as the rest of the forces comes upp, I will sende them ; if all comes I have sente for, I shall not only sende you the number you appointe, but shall have a sufficient strength to come on the other side of him, that willbee able to stoppe the passes, if not to fight him. I shall sende some ammunitiion with this party, that, God willing, shall march to-morrow. Adjutant Genll. Blackmoore hath taken Sir Arthur Aston prisoner at Warrington, and neare twenty more Cavaliers that were with Collo. John Booth, who, it is said, were also secured. I heare Langdale is retreated into Scotland, but nothing of this I can for certayne. I beseech you, Sir, present my duty to your fater Mason.

"I am, your honour's most humble Servant,

"GEORGE TWISTELTON."

[Seal of arms as before.]

PAPER No. XXI.

"For the Honble. Major Generall Thomas Mytton, at his quarters in North Wales, these humbly present.

"Junii 6th, 1648.

"PLEASE YOU NOBLE SIR,—I have received noe letters from [you] by the two last posts, which would trouble me very much, but that I heare, by a letter from my Uncle Edward, that you are in good health and at Carnarvon. Wee heare that Sir John Owen has gott amongst you with some forces, and gets strength ; but we hope you wilbe able to quell him. Wee here likewise that Capt. Symkis still kepes you out of Bewmairis, and that they in the Island will have noe deputie Governor under you but him, and that yf you stand too much in oppocion against him for Major Moore, that you will endanger the loss of all your fortress in the Island. Noble sir, I beseech

you give me leave to speake to you, and be not offende, although I love Major Moore well, and hold him to be the fitter man; yett certainly Capt. Sympkis hath been as faithful to you, and done you as good service as hee; and although happily you take it ill that he gott his comiscion without and against your will, yett yf he be true as I heare, hee acquainted you with it before he gott it, and that one in the armie putt it upon him, or else it would have beine given to another, and that when hee had his comission, he preferred to lay it at your feet; upon all which matter, and forasmuch as it seems the Contrie are for Sympkis and against Major Moore, I would you would be pleased to consult of it, and rather condescend to complie, and lett Sympkis enjoy it, and prefer Major Moore some other waie; it is the desire of all your freinds here, and soe they desire me to write to you; here are such trobles here about that, I can yett gett noe thinge to be done in the busines in relation to the money granted. They have beine up in arms in Kent; but, thankes be to God, they are quelled and all quiet, and the Cavalleirs (who stire up the busines, and endeavour to do the like in all places where they can beguile the people) are all beaten out of that contrie, and were many of them kil'd by the contrie people themselves; and those that escaped here are now gott into Essex, and have stird up that contrie, soe that now they are many of them risen, and are come as farr as Bow bridge, within 3 myles of London, and there have planted ordinance, and suffer noe man to come out or to go into Essex, but it is sayd that the Parliament have granted them an ordinance of Indempnitie, and soe they will departe home in peace, and leave the Cavelleirs with them to shift for themselves, for everie one sees they doe but make a stalkinge horse of the contrie people for there owne ends. There is news come to towne this day that Pembroke Castle is delivered up upon termes to Lieut. Generall Cromwell, and that Pomfreict Castle, in Yorkshire, is revolted to the Kinge; the Lord Goreinge is in the head of the Cavalleirs in Essex, and, they saie, intends to goe downe to Langdall. The xj members and the lords are all voted into the house againe, and the Aldermen are all out of the Towre, and I can thinke of nothinge more for presente, but desire you will send me word how I may sende my letters to you by the post, and . . . for the last I sent, I sent to Beumareis, and I pray God it be not mis-carried; but yf it be, there is noe great matters of secrecie in it; and soe not haveinge more for . . . I humbly rest

“Your most obliged Cosen and faithfull servant,

“JOHN JACKSON.”

[Seal—A crest—a griffin's head erased.]

PAPER XXII.

“To the Honble. Generall Mytton this humbly present.

“Denbigh, June 16th, 1648.

“HONBLE. SIR,—I have sente away your letters; I received none

this poaste for you, nor, indeede, any since you came downe. I beseech you, sir, please to remember our Ingadgment to the Cheshire and our owne souldiers. I received this poaste a letter of thanks from the House, whereof this inclosed is a copy ; there is such another to Collonell Carter. The Speaker wishes mee to represent to the House some probable course for the rewardinge of the officers and souldiers. I humbly entreate your honour's serious thoughts and advice therein, I am soe extreamely putt to it, haveinge soe many prysoners that I dare not goe soe farre from the Castle, els I would have attended your honour there, as also to have contributed my utmost to have raised money to make good our promise to the souldiers. I have little or noe newes this poaste more than what is in prynte. From Chester I have it that Collonell Harrison and Adjutant Blackmore are advanced to joyne with Major Generall Lambert against Langdale ; that he keepes his old quarters, and is much troubled the Scotts failes him soe much as they doe. Wee are now very meeke and quiett in these partes. 2 nights agone I sente halfe a score horse into Carnarvonshire, to bring in Capt. Pue, who was the Ringleader of att least 100 Countrey men, that were upp in our reare as soone as we were marched from the river-side, and continued in a body, untill they hearde of the Rowte of Sir Jon. Owens, upon which they presently dispersed. I have noe more att present but to subscribe myself

“Your honour's very humble and faithful servant,

“GEORGE TWISLETON.

“I pray, Sir, present my service to Mr. Madrin, for whome I received this inclosed. I sente one from Mr. Foxwist to the Sheriff, but came after his death ; hee desires it may bee burnt.”

[Twisleton's seal of arms as before.]

PAPER XXIII.

“Bangor, 26th January, 1648-9.

“May yt please your Excellencie,—

“Wee receaved a letter from your excellencie of the 9th of January, concerning a sequestracion of Mr. Thomas Wynne, and perceive your Excellencie hath beene misinformed in diverse particulars, and have not a true coppie of the facts proved against him ; therefore we have desired this gentleman to waite upon your Excellencie with a coppie of the chardge brought in upon oath to this Committee against him, by which, wee doubt not, but it will appeare unto your Excellency that in adjudginge him a delinquent, wee have done noe more but what our oathes and the duty of our place doth obledge us unto. Wee might further certifie your Excellency that in the beginning of the first warre he was a very bitter and active ennemy to the Parliament's friends and proceedings by the

testimonies against him. It plainly appears that he has had the same malicious principles against your army and their proceeds, and that to the utmost of his power he did endeavour to ruine that part of them which was in this county by your Excellencie's authority and expresse command. And whereas, he informeth your Excellencie that he was plundered by the souldiers, it was noe more but for the loane of two horses to carry provision unto the forces that came to reduce Anglesey, when they were in greate necessity, which his people would not freely lend to such a use. But in observacion of your Excellencie's commands in your letter we have commanded the officers for sequestration to forebeare to dispose of his cattell and personal estate, untill we had given your Excellencie this satisfacion, which is all that we can doe, it being not in our power to take off any sequestracion, but in grand comittee for sequestracions, unto whom he may apply himself if he conceives hee is not liable thereunto.

We are,

Your Excellencie's most humble and faithfull Servants,

THO. MADRIN. *Vic. Car.*

JO. CARTER.

EDM. GLYNNE.

JOHN OWEN.

JO. PARRY.

PAPER XXIV.

"To the honorable Major Generall Mytton, at Mr. Jackson's house, in the round court over against the new Exchange, present, with my humble service.—

"Carnarvon, the 30th of January, 1648.

"HONORABLE SIR, —Though I am sorry to lose your company in these partes, yett I am glade you are att this instant at the fountaine heade both for the rightening of yourselfe and your friends. In the number of which I am soe ambitious as to tearme myselfe one, and for that purpose, if there be any occasion for me to desier your charrite, I desire itt may be favorable, and as you conceive I deserve. Tom Winne Bodrian is resolved, as I am informed, to trouble me before the councill of the army, because the Comite have sequestered him. In the name of God lett him doe his worst. He has procured his excellencie's letter to this comittee in his behalfe, a copie of which I sende you enclosed, togeather with an answer to his excellency. I have writt to Mr. Morris to waite on yoe, and to receive your advise concerninge itt. I would not willingly be baffled by such a fellowe, if your honour would be pleased to make me a friend about his excellency. I would be no niggard of my purse, and I should acknowledge itt amoungst the rest of your favours to—

"Your honors most faythfull and humble servaunte,

"THO. MADRIN.

"Major Moore was with me att Bangor on Wednesday last, where he shewed a draught of a petition, which I liked very well, but the diurnall mentions that their's one delivered for North Wales, I believe by my brother Twisltun, to whom I pray present my service. If Major Moore sends you up the draught put my name name to itt. I pray thinke of your humble servaunt in settleing forces."

(Fragment of a seal of arms.)

PAPER XXV.

"For the honorable Major General Tho. Mytton.

"Salop, frydaie, 26 January, 1648-9.

"SIR,—All yours (God be prayesd) are in health at your house, from whence I came upon Wednesdaie hither, and then Brawne and his followe, and begin to measure Babies¹ wood, and John Jaundrell willbe with them. Your daugher Harriet came to the Ile² on Monday, for advise to the Doctor. Shce is here now expecting the fynall ending of her cause, (but the comyttees do not sytt), and for further direction from the Doctor. Some report but Sir Thomas Harries ys gone to London, but for certen Mr. Walter Harries, of Graye's Inne, that doth sollicit for the sisters, did take post towards London on Saturdaie morning, aboute their busynes, eyther to procure a lease of the house and demeasnes of Boreatton, or ells about his composition, or to insist upon his justification, and to cleere himself, or to compound with the horse gwarde, who are to have the profytts of his land, in the meane time, or what ells I cannott conceive, yf you could use any meanes to make him more respective of you by preventing these designs, they do make use of, sir . . . Kinge, of neere relation to the Generall. Cousin Powell intendeth a meeting with cousin Chambers this next weeke. A note herein for the receipt of £100. Mr. Roberts came to your house on Sundaie. These comittees did not long synce send to the judges to have their opinions, whether Sir Paull,³ being a delinquent and sequestred, could by will chardge his lande or devise his personal estate, but their opinion, not yet certified, which may occasyon Harris posting.

"I receaved hereby a letter this fridaie directed unto you which I opened, beinge from Mr. Clarke, but nothing therein touching your particular, only some fewe other passages of those tymes, therefore I have not sente yt you nor the proceedings in the triall of the

¹ Babins-wood, near Halston.

² The Isle, near Shrewsbury; the house of the Sandfords of the Isle.

³ Sir Paul Harris, of Borreatton Park, near Baschurch, a zealous Royalist. His estates were sequestered, and eventually came into the hands of Colonel Hunt, an equally zealous Roundhead, whose descendants are still the owners of Borreaton.

Kynge, the moderate (*sic*) nor the agreement of the people, which were all inclosed therein, for I doubt not but you are supplied with. Much desiring and thinkings the tyme over longe and tedious untill I heare of your safetie, wealthe, and good succeſſe in your oceaſions, which ſhallbe the daylie prayers of him that is trulie yours.

“E. MYTTON.

“I underſtand of your letters this weeke ſente by Cheſter poſt, which I willbe careful to enquire for, but I thinke not neceſſarie to ſend them unto you, which I cannot doe untill the next weeke, and then expecte to heare from you of the diſpoſing of them. This fridaie night Couſin Nycholas came hither and acquainted me that you and Mr. Haris have agreed to ſtaie all proceeding until you and his returne in the buſyneſſ of his daughter Harris.”

PAPER XXVI.

“To the Honble. Thomas Mytton, Major Generall of North Wales, theſe preſents—

“Leave this letter att Mr. Hudſon’s, in Kinge’s Street, in Convent Garden, neare Sir Gregory Norton’s, to be delivered as above.

“Penley, 9th Feb., 1648.

“HONOURED SIR,—According to your command I attended your honor cominge to Angleſea, for the diſpatch of my buſines, your ſervant in your abſence acting according to your command as much as in him lay to gett my buſenes done, but I am put of in plaine termes by Major Moore, whoe pretendes to doubte your power and the Comittees to make any generall officeres, and farther ſaith uppon ſight of your order for my pay and the arreares of provision, that he will diſpute it, and obey noe orderes but what come from my Lord Generall. My humble prayer is that your honour would favour mee, ſoe farre as that I may by your aſſiſtance of Mr. Aldrich procure mee an order from the Lord Generall uppon my petition, that ſoe I may be at laſt diſcharged of this particular imployment, and bee fitted for ſome more uſefull ſervice, and I ſhall ever acknowledge myſelfe by duty bounde to bee,

“Your moſt humble and obliged ſervant,

“OW. LLOYD.”

(*Seal*—A heart between two wings conjoined.)

We ſhall conclude in the next number the third and laſt ſeries of theſe papers. The correſpondence relating to North Wales is now nearly completed, and the remaining letters will bring us back again into Shropſhire. We will call to the minds of our readers the ſtate of public affairs at this moment.

Charles, the King, was beheaded on the 30th of January, 1649. Deep as the impression created by that event probably was, the civil government remained unaltered. Oliver Cromwell, the successful general, was the virtual dictator of England, while the King was still a prisoner. The King's death merely made him appear more prominently as the chief of the State. He had gained his place by the sword, and by the sword he maintained himself in it. The major-generals, as his lieutenants, governed the counties. Sequestration Committees sat everywhere for the purpose of crippling the finances of the Royalists, and supporting the needs of the army. The members of the House of Commons, not less than the members of the House of Lords, and the sheriffs of the counties, were all nominated by the Protector.

MYTTON MANUSCRIPTS.

LETTERS AND PAPERS OF THOMAS MYTTON, OF HALSTON, ESQ.,

*(Sometime Major-General of the Parliament's Army in North Wales,
1642 to 1655).*

(Continued from page 172 of Vol. viii.)

THE following Papers contain only one letter from Major-General Mytton himself: a letter of orders to Col. Jones, his second in command in North Wales. It is believed that Mytton disapproved of Cromwell's government; at all events, he did not take a prominent part in it. His relative Edward Mytton, writing to him in 1649 (see letter XXIX) says, "future hope making many sparinge of busynes at this tyme, Col. Pope wilbe with you before the receipt hereof and his nephew, both for forrin parts by report to avoyd future daunger, I wish others as provident and far-seeing." However, Mytton did not go abroad. North Wales, after the capture of Sir John Owen, remained quiet under his superintendence. The first five letters of this series refer principally to Welsh affairs. To keep the reader informed of current public events, we will remind him that the fruitless rising of the Langharnes in South Wales was suppressed by Cromwell himself in 1648; in the following year Cromwell was equally successful in suppressing the Irish Royalists; in 1650 he broke the strength of the Scotch Covenanters at Dunbar, on the 3rd of September; and on the same day of the same month in 1651 he gained the crowning victory of Worcester, after which there was no more regular fighting.

In 1653 Cromwell dissolved by force the "Rump" of

the Long Parliament. In the same year he nominated a Parliament of his own, choosing the representatives for each county himself. After an existence of only five months this assembly was dissolved, and in December, 1653, the officers of the army and the Council conferred upon Cromwell the title of Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Ireland, and Scotland. In 1654 a new Parliament was summoned, elected this time by the constituencies, but under two conditions, the first of which made all persons who had fought for the King ineligible, the second subjected all who were returned to the approval of Cromwell's Council, before they were allowed to take their seats. The Protector had, indeed, now become an object of suspicion to a large body of Republicans, and was in equal opposition to those who had failed to obtain the sort of government for which they had fought, as to those who had always adhered to the monarchy.

From the beginning of the long struggle a deep religious enthusiasm had moved a section of the Parliamentarians, and it was for religious opinion, rather than for civil liberty, that they fought. When they got the upper hand, they had always removed the clergy who did not agree with them. But in the year 1654 a more regular system of appointment to and removal from benefices was organised. A committee of thirty-eight members, nine laymen and twenty-nine ministers, was organised; and without the approval of these "Triers", as they were called, no clergyman could officiate. The committee sat in London, but in each county sat a sub-committee of puritan laymen and preachers, called "expurgators", who were authorised to eject "scandalous, ignorant, insufficient ministers." This reference will explain the application in favour of Mr. Giles, "an able, painful, and godly minister", in letter No. xxxiv.

In 1655, Parliamentary government turning out very unsatisfactory, a scheme of government by the major-generals was formally inaugurated. The major-generals must long ago have been the true centres of local

authority, but in this year they were invested with more definite civil powers. We should have expected that Major-General Mytton would have been appointed for North Wales; but his life was drawing to its close, and possibly such an appointment would have been no longer acceptable to him on political grounds. Col. Berry was made Major-General for Hereford, Salop, and North Wales. In order to pay for the increased costs of these military establishments, a singularly simple and effective plan was devised. A £10 per cent. income tax was laid upon the Royalists. We have one or two little glimpses of the troubles of unfortunate persons whose properties fell into the hands of the sequestration committees in the letter of Rachel, Lady Newport (No. xxxvi), and in allusions to the business of Lady Harris, wife of Sir Thomas Harris, of Borreatton, Bart., and daughter to our General Mytton (letters No. xxv and xxix). The central committee for sequestrations sat at the Goldsmith's Hall, in London, and there were sub-committees in all the counties.

In the year 1656 Major-General Thomas Mytton died at his house in London, and was buried among his ancestors in the chancel of St. Chad's Church, in Shrewsbury.

PAPER XXVII.

To the Honor^{ble} Major Generall Mytton at Mr. John Jackson's house over against the round Court nigh the new Exchange, London, these :

“Bewmarish, 8 Feb.

“HONORED SIR, —I receaved yours by the last week's post, and shall give you a full accompt of what Mr. Foxwist wished you to write aboute, so sone as I can speeke with Mr. Sheeriffe¹ Madderine; since the last post I wryte a letter to you, which I sent to Salop, and doute not but wilbe with you before this, yt will assure you of the taking of both the Post Barques; I have adventured to draw a petition and gett hands to yt, but I much suspect myselfe that I have not done

¹ Sheriff of Caernarvonshire.

yt as I should, but I hope you will excuse me, having no one to advise withall in yt; and be pleased to amend the errors, and present ytt in our names; the Cuntry gentlemen are verry quiett, and I believe desire to be soe, but take the death of their cussen verry heavilie; the lady Auger hath almost lost her eies with weeping, but shee whoe hath done herselfe noe more hurt with greiving for the losse of Foure husbands I doubt not will easilie digest this. ¹Cap. Younge is gone into Shropshire, and divers of the troope are absent, which I have given orders to Cornett Pulleston to send back for, and then I hope to keep them together and to have them in reddines if occasion be; if you think yt fytt, I will muster both horse and foote, that I may see in what condition both horse and armes are, and retorne the severall liste unto your honor, that you may knowe how strong we are; this day I am informed Cap. Younge hath goeing towards him from hence neare £400 with the Quartermaster and Clarke of troope; if that be true he hath quite himselfe well since he come hyther. The Cornett gives greate content to the Countrey, and is very careful to keep the souldiers in order. I am much importuned by Coll. Bulkeley² about his ransome, he sayeth you have artied to do yt, yet he is willing to ingage never to take up armes in this Kingdome againe. I leave yt to your consideracion, and ever rest, sir

“Your honors faithfull and humble servant,

“ED. MOORE.

“For the present I can gett noe more hands.”

(Seal—a heart in flames, transfixd by an arrow.)

PAPER XXVIII.

To the Hon^{ble} Major General Mytton at his lodginge in Kinge's Streete in Coven Garden, this present—

“HONBLE SIR,— communicated to me expressive of your extraordinary island, and of your care and zeal thereof, which for my owne part I doe acknowledge with and from my heart profess my earnest desire that we may enjoy the continued happiness of your discreet government under the obedience of Parliament; I am well assured that all the gentlemen of the island concurre with me herein, whose sense I doubt not you will receave very shortley from themselves, about that busynes and alsoe touchinge the engagemente to defend this place, against all invaders

¹ Probably Captain William Younge, son of William Younge of Keinton; he was born in 1592, and married Susanna, a daughter of Robert Corbett of Stanwardine, Esq., a zealous Roundhead.

² Brother to Viscount Bulkeley. See note to letter XXVIII.

contrary to the authoritie of parliament, which for my owne parte I will most willingly undergoe, but in regard there cannot bee on this suddaine a considerable number gott together to subscribe the same, I conceaved myself obliged to give you this accompt soe farre as concerns my owne particular. What you have undertaken to Mr. Morris for his sollicitation on this countrey's behalfe, I am confident will be made good, wee should else be guiltie of very high ingratitude, whereof by God's leave you shall not have just cause to condemne.

Your very faithfull and much obliged humble servant,

¹ BULKELEY.

(*Seal of Arms*—A chevron between three bull's heads, caboshed.)

¹ The Bulkeleys, originally of Cheadle Bulkeley in Cheshire (an estate which remained in the family till the 18th century), were settled at Bewmaris as early as the 15th century. In 1484 William Bulkeley Constable of Bewmaris, prevented the landing of Richard, Duke of York, on his return from Ireland. In 1534, Sir Richard Bulkeley was Chamberlain of North Wales. His son, Sir Richard, was knighted in 1576, and he was succeeded by his son, another Sir Richard, who died in 1621, having married Mary, daughter of Lord Borough. Thomas, his son, was the Viscount Bulkeley who wrote this letter; he was ennobled by Charles I. He is said to have spent £3000 on Bewmaris Castle, and to have lost altogether £10,000 in the Royal cause. His son Robert, second Viscount, was nominated Captain and Constable of Bewmaris at the restoration, and died in 1668. The third Viscount, Richard, was Vice-Admiral of North Wales, and dying in 1704 was succeeded by Richard, fourth Viscount, who was Constable of Caernarvon and Bewmaris, and Chamberlain of North Wales. He married Lady Bridget Bertie, daughter of the Earl of Abingdon, and dying in 1724 was succeeded by his son, Richard, fifth Viscount, Constable of Bewmaris, and Chamberlain of North Wales; he died in 1738, having married Jane, eldest daughter and heiress of Lewis Owen of Peniarth, Esq., Custos Rotulorum of Merioneth, by Margaret, his wife, eldest daughter of Sir William Williams of Llanforda, Bart., and sister to Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, Bart. This Viscount Bulkeley died without issue. His widow was remarried to her mother's first cousin, Edward Williams of Chester and Bodelwyddan, Esq., and had issue three daughters, of whom Jane, the heiress of Peniarth, was grandmother of W. W. E. Wynne, now (1875) of Peniarth, and late M.P. for Merioneth. James, sixth Viscount Bulkeley, succeeded his brother Richard. He was Constable of Bewmaris and Chamberlain of North Wales. He married Miss Rowlands of Caerau, in Anglesey, and left an only son, Thomas James, seventh and last Viscount Bulkeley, who married Harriet, the daughter and heiress of Sir Peter Warren, K.B., and died without issue in 1822. He

PAPER XXIX.

“To my honored Major-Generall Mytton, these—

“Salopp, Tuesdaie, 24 Aprill [1649].

“God be prayed all yours are well.

SIR,—I did write unto you upon Frydaie laste, and that night Mr. Edwardds had your letter which was then sent unto him, and might returne you an answer by that poste yf hee soe please. Mr. Roberts did goe toward Walls [*i. e.* Wales] upon Saturdaie; yt may be occasioned upon receipte of the letter hee then had from you; he ys not yet returned. Touching your hawkes, I did mistake in my last letter; yt ys the Laurett that is poore and will not feede, she hath had a scouring geeven her; the Faulken ys very well which was left here, and soe is that which came last. John Boodle sayeth the mare he brought downe wilbe fytt for you, for ease and free from stumbling; shee came well downe. I did speake to Mr. Henry Heynes upon Saturdaie, and hee doth thinke that Cousin Newton¹ and Cousin Acton² are cyther slack or not willing to have conference in the busynes, hee will send to Cousin Newton about yt; future hope maketh many sparing in busynes at this tyme. Co. Po.³ will be with you before the receipte hereof and his nephew, both for forrin parts by reporte, to avoyd future daunger by example. I wish others as provident and farseeing. Your millston came on Frydaie, the break-

bought the Castle of Bewmaris from the Crown, and was created an English peer by the title of Baron Bulkeley of Bewmaris. The widow of the sixth viscount was remarried to Sir Hugh Williams, Bart., and the present (1875) Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams Bulkeley, Bart., to whom the last Viscount devised the estates, is their grandson.—(Ex rel. W. W. E. Wynne).

¹ “Cousin” Newton belonged to the Shropshire family of Newtons, of whom Peter was sheriff of the county in 1503, and Francis of Heightley, in the parish of Chirbury, was sheriff in 1602. This Francis married Mary, daughter of Reynold Corbett of Stoke, one of the justices of the Common Pleas, and it will be recollected that another daughter of Reynold Corbett married General Mytton’s grandfather; hence the relationship. In the beginning of the 18th century, Letitia, sister and co-heir of John Newton of Heightley, carried the estate into the family of Lloyd.

² There was a double relationship between the Myttons and Actons. Richard Acton, of Acton Scott, married Cicely, daughter of Richard Mytton and Agnes, his first wife, daughter of Sir Edw. Gray of Enville, and again Sir Edward Acton of Aldenham married Sara, sister to our Thomas Mytton.

³ The family of Pope were originally of Guilsfield in Montgomeryshire. Through the family of Ireland the Popes and the Myttons were distantly connected.

ing of one wheel was a greate hindrance unto them. Netheway came to your house yesterdaie; he hopeth the stone will prove well; there ys a carpenter to repayre some parte and make new, for he feareth the weight of the stone being such all the worke must be strong; this daie seanight I did write unto you by this post to let you knowe amongst many other things that Ryder will give £10 rent for the last yeare and the like for this, and give his bound to avoyd the 25th of March next, whereunto I expected your answeere heere now, for which purpose I came hither but have no letter from you, only have seen that you sent to my Ladie Harris¹ which is not your writing, therefore I suspect your health which I daylie praie for and hartilie wishe more than his that ys yours,

“E. MYTTON.²”

“I did send cousin Pope’s Debenture unto you the last weeke, with the Clark’s hands only thereunto, whereunto there should be 4 of the subcomittes; yf you please to returne it or ells I will send you an other with that supplie. The graunde assemblie of all the comittes for North Walls ys att Wrixsam to morrow; there town-tyme³ 2 daies; more thereof by the next. Nothing yet don about the Comons. I conceave your house wilbe compleate for the Bishop yf hee like of his chamber, and only one, and will make use of some other place then the sellers, the sberiff having present use of them. This daie heere Hyncks should have geven me informacion who hath the 2 pastures at the town’s hend, and at what rent, but I doe not heare from him.”

PAPER XXX.

“To his honored frend Colonell John Jones, these present.

“Hallston, 29th June, 1649.

“SIR,—I receaved yours per my man Matthews even now, with the inclosed from the right Ho^{ble} the Committee of Derby house; my occasions calle mee in respect of my weif’s weakness this eveninge into Salopp where (God willing) I will make the least staie that is possible

¹ Lady Harris was Mary, daughter to Gen. Mytton, and wife of that zealous Royalist, Sir Thomas Harris of Boreatton, Bart., who was fined £1,542 by the Sequestration Committee. Sir Thomas headed a fruitless rising in 1655, having collected a body of men in Boreatton Park, who were dispersed by Governor Mackworth, and Sir Thomas himself taken prisoner. Perhaps it was through his father-in-law’s influence that his life was spared on that occasion. See allusion to Lady Harris’ affairs in paper xxv.

² The name of Gen. Mytton’s uncle was Edward; but whether this is he I know not; the cousinhood of the name of Mytton was large at this time, and there might have been several Edwards.

³ *I.e.*, time for staying in town.

and returne with all possible speede to attende the service of the publique. I fynde your occasyons wherein you are ymployed at this tyme to be twoo, and both of greate consequence, the one generally for North Wales, wherein accordinge to the commands geeven mee I shalbe readie to give you my best assistance, the other moore particular for Anglesey wherein I desire you will not do anythinge till I speak with you, preasuminge that there hath byn some misse representations of the carryage of that busynes above, which I shall acquaint you with. Your letter directing that you intend to be at Chirke Castle before this comes to your hands, I have sent the bearer to desire you to lett me heare from you with all speede which of the two you intend firste to fall upon, and allso to give you my opinion that I conceive Anglesey, in respect of the danger thereof and the quiett condicion of thother partes at this tyme, ys most proper first to be setled.

“Your humble servant,

“THO. MYTTON.

“[Indorsed copie of a letter sent to Coll. Jo. Jones.]”

PAPER XXXI.

“To the hon^{ble} Major-Generall Tho. Mytton att his Lodging atte a Barbour's house in King Street, Covent Garden.

“Colebrooke, 1st July, 1649.

“SIR,—You have been pleased to write to me a letter which I received by a Foot post ; I would have come to London had you sente to me one daye sooner, but now I cannot for I feare my Lord Lievt. will send for us awaye, suddenly ; the readinge of your letter att first appaled me a litle, but when I made scrutiny into mine own inno-cency I found myself cleare and I doe answeare your demands and hereby assure you on the word of a gentleman that I was never privy to any letter written to your dishonor by any man, and if I had (I honor you soe much) I should have acquainted you with it. And since you chardge me with writing something concerninge you, if there be truth in mee I never writ anything tending to your disgrace or disadvantage, neither can I remember that ever I writt anything to or for Colonell Jones that mencioned your name in it ; I remember that Mr. Curtney one day motioned Colonell Jones to procure that some course might be taken with the Foot companyes in Anglesey and desired Colonell Jones to move in the businesse, and he would drawe a letter as from Major Moore to this effect, that some course might be taken with them in point of satisfaction of paye since they were to be disbanded, and that Captain Critchley's company would ingage for Ireland or to this effect, but not a word of you ; only Colonell James appointed att his then departing from us that the direction of the letter should be to you. Att the request of Mr. Curtney I copied it over faire by his foule draught. It begune with (Sir) and ended

with (your faithfull servant) as I remember, and soe farr you might see my hand; but I excused myself for subscribinge any name to it which occasioned Mr. Curtney to desier me to carry it to Colonell Jones (who was by that time at the Counsell of State) without either name or superscription, which I did, and if any other did it I disclayne it, but farr more to be a forger of any scandall, For I never counterfeited any letters but one, and that to Sir John Watts¹ by your direccion, what I did in this I could not deny in civility, and I hope you so apprehend it. Sir, I pray harbour a better thought of him whoe is

“Your honors reall and faithfull servant to his poore power,

“EDW. PYERS.

“Sir, your horse you sold me I find to be very dull.”

(*Seal of Arms*—A chevron between three boar's heads coupéd.)

PAPER XXXII.

This is a list of the persons constituting the High Court in 1651. The Court was first created to try the King, when about sixty persons were nominated to sit upon it, and it was continued with additions and changes from time to time, as circumstances required, to try the Royalists. It was severe and prompt in its judgments. Thomas Mytton sat on this court at the trial of the Earl of Derby in this year. For an account of Humphrey Mackworth see note to paper No. vi, *ante*. Humphrey Edwards was a busy Shropshire Roundhead. He had got himself elected to the Long Parliament on the expulsion of Sir Humphrey Lea for “malignancy” in 1645, after an election struggle with Colonel Andrew Lloyd of Aston. It seems the sheriff, Thomas Mytton, having summoned the freeholders of the county to Oswestry to elect a Knight of the Shire, suddenly adjourned the “County Court”, as it was called, to Alberbury, where, by concert with Mr. Humphrey Edwards, a sufficient number of his friends were collected for the sheriff to proclaim him chosen. There was a petition against this return, but in the confusion of those troublesome times nothing came of it.

¹ Sir John Watts was Cavalier Governor of Chirk Castle.

“Wednesday, the 25th of June, 1651.

“Resolved by the Parliament that Phillipp Jermyn, one of the justices of the Upper Bench, Major Generall Harrison, Sir Wm. Constable, Wm. Littleton, Esqr., Henry Harbert, Esqr., Colonell Phillip Jones, Thomas . . . gan, Esqr., Michael Oldsworth, Esqr., Nicholas Lechmere, Esqr., Luke Hodges, Esqr., Richard Aldworth, Esqr., Humphrey Edwards, Humphrey Mackworth, Esqr., Thomas Mitton, Esqr., John Ettonhead, Serjeant-at-Lawe, ... Clerke, Sergeant-at-Lawe; John Norbury, Esqr., Bussey Mansell, Esqr., Edward Pritchard, Esqr., Silvanus Taylor, John Price, Rowland Dawkins, James Phillipp, Wroth Rogers, Sampson Lort, John Nicholas, Edward Harbert, John Williams, John Gauler, Esqr., Jenken Franklen, Henry Morgan, Francis Blethen, Rice Williams, John Herbert William Botterell, and John James be added to the High Court of Justice, and be inpowred and authorized to act and put in execucion the severall powers and authorities contained in the severall Acts of Parliament impowring the said High Court.”

PAPER XXXIII.

Here is a letter written just eight days before the battle of Worcester, and directed to Mytton at Shrewsbury, where possibly he might have been present when the “negative and gallant answer” was returned. We have mentioned the incident before in a note on Col. Mackworth, but werepeat it again here. The king caused a flattering letter to be conveyed to Mackworth, Governor of Shrewsbury, assuring him of his royal favour if he would surrender the town, and reminding him that he knew he was a gentleman of birth and ancient family. The answer returned was, “If you believe me to be a gentleman, as you say you do, believe that I shall be faithful to my trust.” So Charles passed by another way, and was welcomed in the more loyal city of Worcester, from which Mabbott tells us that the Parliamentary troops being opposed had drawn off. On the 3rd of September Cromwell gathered his forces round Worcester, and completely routed the royal army, the king himself barely escaping with his life.

"For the Hon^{ble} M. G. Mitton, at Shrewsbury, these.

26th Aug. [1651].

"SIR,—His excellencie with 10,000 horse and foot, and L. G. Fleetwood with the like number of old soldiers, joyne with the 2 in generalls (who consist of 13,000) this night at Coventry. The enemy marcht through Worcester, our forces there were opposed by the City and drew off to Gloucester upon the enemys approach which is now besidged, they are well fortified and mand, and their resolutions equivalent to both. Charles Stuart in his declaration hath excepted his Excellencie the Lo. Deputy, Lo. President, Lo. ch. Justice Cooke, and all others that voted and sate to give sentence against his father.

"Shrewsbury Castle being summoned, the Governor returned a negative and gallant answer.

"A party of horse and foot with Col. Lilburn are gone into Lancashire against the E. of Derby,¹ and we doubt not by this his Lordship is prisoner. We have re-garrisoned Lancaster Castle. I am, Sir,

"Your reall servant,

"G. MABBOTT."²

PAPER XXXIV.

"To the worthy General Mitton, this with care and speed present—

"London, May 25th, 1653.

"HONOURED SIR,—The experience which I have of your readines to helpe honest men and to further any good worke makes me to request your favour in the behalfe of an able, painfull, and Godly minister, one Mr. Edward Giles, who beinge placed by the Comittee for this county assistant to Dr. Betton, and having for diverse yeares performed the whole worke in the absence of the sayd Dr., who hath lately resigned his title to Worthin; It is therefore my earnest request

¹ The Earl of Derby was left in Lancashire while the royal army marched southwards, in order that he might raise the adherents of the cause in the county where his influence was so great. Before, however, he had succeeded in collecting his friends, he was attacked by Col. Lilburn with greatly superior numbers, and after a furious fight, escaped almost alone just in time to be present at the destruction of the king's army at Worcester. He fled with the king into Staffordshire, where they separated. Less fortunate than his master he fell into the hands of his pursuers, was brought before the High Court, sentenced to death, and executed at Bolton on the 15th of October, 1651.

² Mabbott was a member of the Long Parliament.

that you would vouchsafe to set your hand and seale as chiefe, or in the first place as a member of the Shropshire Comittee, to which my Cousen Collonell Mackworth¹ hath set his, that soe his proceedinges may receive life and encouragement from your favour and furtherance; I beseech you (good Sir) be pleased to condescend to my desires herein, and I shall looke upon it as don for myselfe, and you shall ever oblige this good man heartily to pray for you; and I doubt not but your kindnes herein will redound to God's glory and the good of his Church, soe with my service presented to yourselfe, trustynge to your performance, I rest

"Your assured friend and servaunt,

"THO. BAKER."²

¹ See note to paper VI, *ante*.

² Thomas Baker, of Sweeney, was the son of Thomas Baker who bought Sweeney from Andrew Chamber, of Petton, in the year 1623, the family of Chambre having bought the estate in the year 1568 from the last Earl of Arundel of the Fitzalan name. He was grandson of Thomas Baker of Weston Lullingfields. He married Elizabeth, a daughter of Col. Fenwicke, who defended Moreton Corbett Castle for the Parliament, and whose other daughter married Humphrey Mackworth, of whom so much has been said in these pages. In 1649 Thomas Baker was Parliamentary Sheriff of Shropshire, and in 1653 was chosen one of Cromwell's Parliament men for the county of Salop. In the year of his shrievalty he applied to the Herald's College for a grant of arms; the expert herald having by mistake or otherwise designated Mr. Baker as of Swanney, instead of Sweeney, proceeded to devise for him a coat of arms, consisting of three swans' necks issuing from three crowns, and a crest of somewhat similar character. The original grant of arms is still extant at Sweeney. In 1675, the year of his death, his name appears in the list of those who subscribed to the new charter for the town of Oswestry. He was buried in the garden at Sweeney, where his tomb may still be seen, together with two other monumental stones. There was probably at that time a small chapel at Sweeney, and the remains of a window of ecclesiastical architecture confirms the tradition of its existence. Mr. Baker built "a new fair house" at Sweeney, which was taken down in 1805 by Mr. Thomas Netherton Parker. A most amusing account of him is given by his kinsman Gough, in his *History of Myddle*, which we cannot refrain from inserting here:—

"Thomas Baker, jun., was no comely person of body, nor of great parts, and little education, butt he was very rich in lands, woods, money, and goods.

'Sint tibi divitiæ sint larga et munda supellex
Esse tamen vel sic bestia magna potes.'

'Say thou hast wealth and goods both rare and dainty,
A great beast thou may be for all thy plenty.'

PAPER XXXV.

“To the honorable and very much respected Kinsman Major Generall
Thomas Mytton, at his house, Shrosbury.

“London, the 16th of January, 1655.

“HONORED SIR,—My prayers to God for your prosperity and health, sir. Your daughter Mrs. Magdalen is in good health, and the beginning of the last weeke tooke parte of a sorry dyner with me, for which I reſte thankfull to her, and ſhee not knowinge to whome I ſhould

How bee it hee marryed with a lovely gentlewoman of a masculine ſpirit and noe meane beauty; I ſaw noe inducement that ſhee had to marry him ſave his riches.

‘*Nam genus et formam regina pecunia donat.*’

Her name was Elizabeth, her maiden name was Fenwicke; ſhee was deſcended of a good famly, and well educated. Judge Mackworth married her ſiſter. ſhee had a brother that was a Collonell in the Parliament army, a comely proper gentleman. Hee was ſomewhile governor of a ſmall garrison in the caſtle at Moreton Corbett, which hee fortyfyed with a mudde wall, and there manfully withſtood a ſharp aſſault of his enemyes. What country man hee was I know not, but I have heard that the name of Fenwicke is very uſual in the North of England. This Mr. Thomas Baker (for ſoe I muſt now call him) erected a new faire houſe in Sweeney, a handsome pile of building. The contriver’s name was Baker; he was a diſbanded captaine. I have heard Mr. Baker ſay it was whoally built in ſixteen weeks. Mr. Baker was made a Juſtice of Peace in the Parliament time (and ſoe continued untill the reſtauration of King Charles II), and wrote himſelf Eſquire. But it was lytle trouble to him, and his Clarke had a faire life, and, indeed, was not fitt for much buſineſſe. I cannot tell whether hee knew where the Bench was where the Sessions was kept, for I never ſaw him there. Hee was made High Shrieve of the county, and kept a very noble Shrieve’s houſe. Hee behaved himſelfe among the gentlemen of the county with much commendation, even to admiration. Hee was a great patron and benefactor to all independent preachers, ſuch as Vavaſer Powell, who comonly preached every day in the weeke. I have heard him pray and preach four houres together in the dincing room att Sweeney, where many perſons came to heare him; and when the people departed they had every one a quarter of a two-penny bun or cake, and every one a glaſſ of beere, of about halfe a pint. And to ſay the truth of Mr. Baker, he kept good hoſpitality, and was very charitable to the poore. Hee ſeldome changed his ſervants, butt when they marryed away, and then hee ſent them away nott without a reward; but all this was thought to be done by the diſcretion of Mrs. Baker. And now I come to the

applye myself to for my anuety, because shee sayeth you have not much bussinesse in London, neither have you any agent heere, wherefore make bould to wright these fewe lynes to you to knowe to whome I shall applye myself, and if you have no correspondence at London, if you please I shall drawe it upon you there; this quarter which is now goinge on makes three; I desire your answere the next returne,

apex of Mr. Baker's dignity. Hee was chosen by the Protector to be a Parliament man. The other knight for this shire, chosen also by the Protector, was John Browne of Little Nesse, a selfe conceited, confident person, butt one that Mr. Baker had a great respect for, because hee favoured the Independent party. This Parliament was picked by the Protector through the whole kingdom, and not chosen by the freeholders as usuall. Itt was thought that the Protector chose this Parliament on purpose thatt they might make him king; but this Parliament was too wise to doe that, although the Protector, when hee turned them out, called them a Parliament of fools. They made one onely act, which was that all persons should be marryed by Justices of the Peace; of which act Mr. Culpepper says merrily—

‘An act for marriages, from heaven sure sent,
The only business of one Parliament.’

“I have now brought Mr. Baker to his meridian; ‘sed ad summum quicquid venit ad exitum prope est.’ As he increased in dignity, soe he decreased in riches, which wasted faster than his father gott them; ‘maxima paulatim ex minimis, minima subito ex maximis.’ Hee had spent all the money that his father left him, and haveing noe child, he began to consider of an heire to his estate, and first he designed his sister's son, and to that end sent him to Oxford to learn University readinge; but he proved too extravagant, and gott much in debt, and profited nothing in learning, and therefore the uncle paid his debts and cast him off. When he came home, hee marryed a wife of noe fortune and hardly a good name, and this alienated Mr. Baker's affection whoally from him. Afterwards Mr. Baker designed a son of Judge Mackworth's for his heire, butt the young man dyed before he came to maturity; and then Thomas Browne, the eldest son of John Browne, of Little Nesse (Mr. Baker's oracle) marryed with my cozen, Mary Gough, eldest daughter of my uncle, John Gough, of Besford, half brother to old Thomas Baker, and had a son by her, named Thomas Browne, and this young man Mr. Baker made choice of to bee his heire.”

The family of Browne became extinct in the male line in 1783, on the death of Edward Browne, of Sweeney, and the estate was carried into the family of Parker by the marriage, in 1796, of Sarah Browne, niece of Edward Browne, and Thomas Netherton Parker, of the Whitehouse, Longdon, co. Worcester. On the death of the Rev. John Parker, of Sweeney, in 1860, the estate passed to his sister Lady Leighton, wife of Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart., and is now (1875) in the possession of their second son, Stanley Leighton.

by which I shall regulate myself according to your answer, and if there be anything heere wherein I may serve you, you may command me. Thus nott havinge farther for present, with the above prefixes for yourselfe, Lady, Childeren, and rest of your family, I humbly take my leave, and comitt you and your severall affaires to the protection of the Almighty, In whom I will ever rest

“Your loving Kinsman by you to be commanded,

“THO. MYTTON.

“Sir, if it be your pleasure to vouchsafe me an answer I pray direct your letter to me at my house in Greate St. Ellines, nere St. Mary Axe.”

PAPER XXXVI.

“NOBLE COUSEN,—Though I would not willingly omitt any opportunity of presenting my service to you, yet I should not have been forward to have mixed it with any trouble, had not my necessity urged me to what civility would have denyed me. At the beginning of these unhappy differences my husband unfortunately purchased some land in the Township of Iscoyd, in Flintshire, part of which land belongs to a farm called the Hullis farme, and for which Sir Thomas Brereton payd my husband £40 per annum since the purchase, but so it is, that one Jennings and others plead a lett of this farme by the sequestrators for this year for £6 10s., which contract, if not made before my composition, which was on the 27th of February last, will not stand good; he told my servant that he tooke the farme before the 27th of Feb., and yet told him also that his bargain was made with the reste of the tenants, which was but little before our Lady Day, so that there appears a manifest artifice in it. My request to you at this tyme is, that my servant by your order may have so much liberty as by the bookes to know when this contract was made, and if any fore-rent was payd, though not due till our Lady last, they alleadgeing the payment of a fore-rent. Sir, if there be anything wherein I may serve you, there is none shall more improve all opportunities to the best advantage of doing it than, Cousen,

“Your affectionate Cousen and humble servt.,

“RAHELL NEWPORT.²

“Dothill,¹ Junij 29^o. ”

¹ Dothill, near Wellington, co. Salop. Lady Newport's daughter Mary married John Stevenson of Dothill. The property afterwards passed to the family of Forester.

² Rachel, Lady Newport, was daughter of Sir John Leveson of Trentham, and widow of Sir Richard Newport of High Ercall, who was created a baron in 1642, on his presenting £6,000 to the king

PEDIGREE OF THE MYTTONS.

Roger Mytton of Wilts = Anne, d. to Rich. Hussey.

Steven Mytton = Jane, d. to Sir Philip Strange of Knocking.

Owen Mytton of Wilts = Joyce, d. to Wm. Purcell of Morton.

Phillip Mytton = Jane, d. to Sir Henry Vernon.

William Mytton = Anne, d. to Sir William Pickton.

John Mytton = Anne, d. to Sir Francis Darrell.

Hankin Mytton =

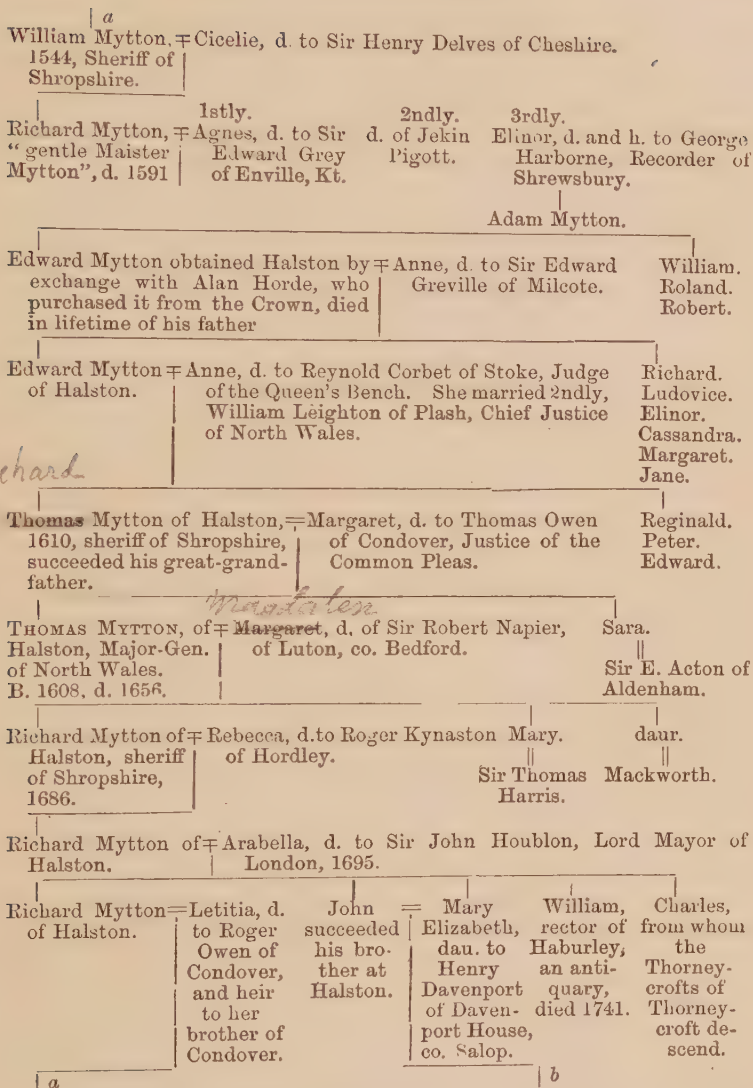
Reignold Mytton = Anne, d. and heir to Sir Hamon Vaughan.

Thomas Mytton	= Cicelia, d. and h. to William Burley of Salop. She represented the families and estates of the Tours and Prides.	Sir John Burgh = d. and h. of Sir W. of Wattlesborough, Dinas Mawddwy, and Radbroke.	Sir W. Clopton of Radbroke, county Gloster.
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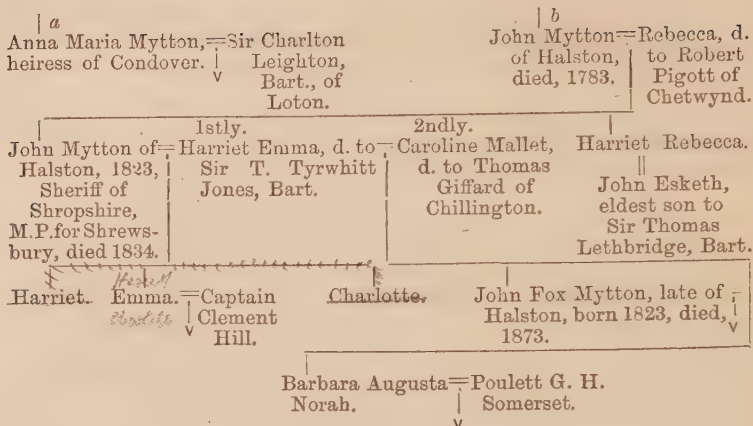
2ndly. A d. of Booth of Cheshire. Sir Adam Mytton.	= Thos. Mytton, 1483, Sheriff of Shropshire.	1stly. = Elinor, d. and co- h. of Sir John Burgh.	Joyce. Newport. v	Ankaret. Leighton. v	Anne. Lingen. v
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at Shrewsbury. He died in 1650, and was succeeded by his son Francis, who was made a prisoner at the taking of Oswestry. Both father and son were deeply involved in the Royal cause. Their estates were sequestered to the amount of £3,287 for the father, and £5,284 for the son, besides an annuity of £170. Lady Newport's letter refers to these sequestration troubles. A viscounty was conferred on the family in 1675, and an earldom in 1694, and in the year 1762 the family became extinct in the male line. In the female line, however, it is represented by the Bridgemans. Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart., having married Anne, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Bradford of the first creation. The Bridgemans were ennobled in 1794 under the title of Baron Bradford, and in 1815 the Earldom of Bradford and Viscounty of Newport were conferred on Orlando the 2nd Baron. It is a singular coincidence that the ancient inheritances of the Newports, including the Roman city of Uriconium, the Feudal Castle of Shrewsbury, granted by Charles II to Francis, second Lord Newport, and the old but now decaying manor houses of Wroxeter and Ercall are all separated from the possession of the family which represents the blood of the ancient owners. These great estates passed by will through the Pulteneys and Johnstones to the Vanes, Dukes of Cleveland. We have presumed that this letter, which bears no endorsement, was written to Gen. Mytton, and the name "Cousen"



we imagine represents the distant kinship between the Myttons and the Newports, which began when two of their ancestors married respectively two sisters, co-heirs of Sir John Burgh of Wattlesborough, Dinas Mawddwy, and Radbroke (see pedigree at the end). The Earl of Bradford, Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire (1875) is the representative on the female line of the Newports.



INDEX TO NAMES.

The figures indicate the number of the paper in which the name occurs.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Acton, 29. | Capell, Lord, 6. |
| Aldersey, 18, 19. | Carter, John, Colonel, 16, 18, 19, |
| Aldrich, 26. | 20, 21, 23. |
| Aldworth, 32. | Charles Rex, 13. |
| Aston, Arthur, Sir, 20. | Charlton, Robert, 10. |
| | Clarke, 25. |
| Baker, Thomas, 34. | Clerke, 32. |
| Batt, Thomas, 16. | Clive, Rob., 10. |
| Betton, Dr., 34. | Constable, William, Sir, 32. |
| Blackmore, Adj.-Gen., 20-22. | Cooke, Chief Justice, 33. |
| Blayney, Thomas, Colonel, 13. | Corbett, Vincent, Sir, 7. |
| Blethin, Francis, 32. | Corbett, Rob., 7. |
| Boodle, 29. | Corbett, Robin, 9. |
| Booth, John, Colonel, 20. | Corbet, 3. |
| Botteril, William, 32. | Critchley, 31. |
| Bowyer, Colonel, 10. | Cromwell, Lieut.-Gen., 21. |
| Brayne, Captain, 9. | Curtney, 31. |
| Brereton, Thomas, Sir, 36. | |
| Brereton, William, Sir, 6-8. | Dawkins, Rowland, 32. |
| Broughton, Colonel, 9. | Denbigh, Earl of, 3, 7. |
| Bulkeley, Colonel, 27. | Derby, Earl of, 33. |
| Bulkeley, Viscount, 5, 15, 28. | Edwards, Humphrey, 32. |
| Byron, Lady, 8. | Edwards, 29. |
| Byron, Nicholas, Sir, 1. | Ettonhead, John, 32. |

Evans, 19.
 Evel, Major, 19.
 Eyton, Gerard, Sir, 9.

Farrer, 14.
 Fleetwood, 5, 33.
 Foxwist, 22, 27.

Giles, Edward, 34.
 Glenham, Thomas, Sir, 13, 15.
 Glynn, Edmond, 23.
 Goringe, Lord, 21.
 Griffith, Lieut., 19.

Hanmer, Roger, 16.
 Harber, Edward, 32.
 Harbert, Henry, 32.
 Harries, Paul, Sir, 25.
 Harries, Thomas, Sir, 25.
 Harries, Walter, 25.
 Harries, Lady, 29.
 Harrison, Major-Gen., 22, 32.
 Hassell, 8.
 Hawley, 9.
 Herbert, John, 32.
 Heynes, 29.
 Hodges, Luke, 32.
 Horton, 17.
 Hunckes, Fulk, Sir, 8, 9.
 Hunt, Colonel, 6, 10.
 Hynckes, 29.

Ireton, 15.

Jackson, 3, 5, 21, 27.
 James, John, 32.
 Jennings, 36.
 Jones, Col., 16, 17, 18, 19, 30, 31.
 Jones, Michael, Colonel, 14.
 Jones, Philip, Colonel, 32.
 Kinaston, Colonel, 14.

Lambert, 22.
 Langdall, 15, 20, 21, 22.
 Langharne, Major-Gen., 14, 17.
 Lechmere, Nicholas, 32.
 Lilburn, Colonel, 33.
 Littleton, Will., 32.

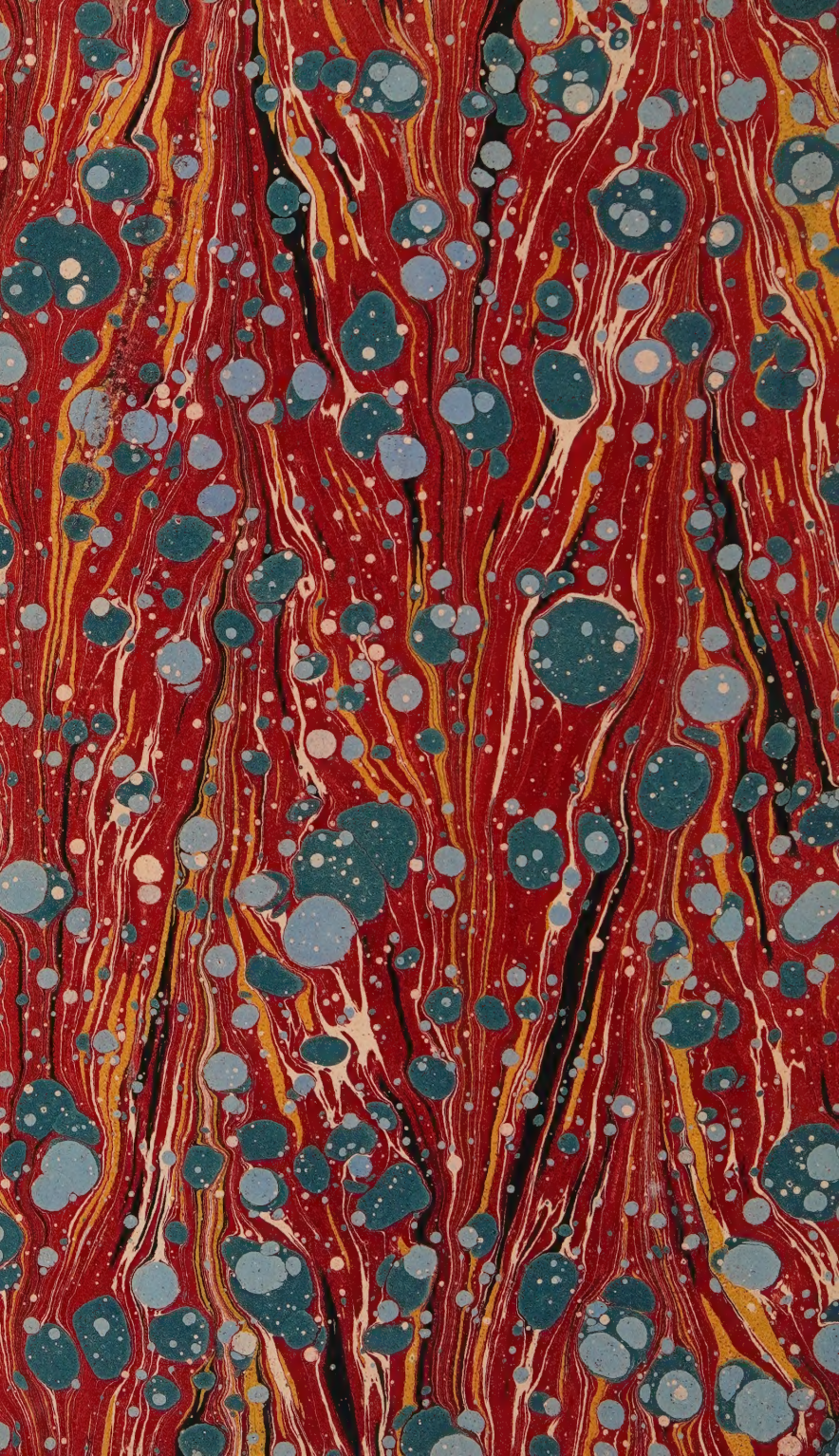
Lloyd, Andrew, Colonel, 19.
 Lloyd, Walter, Sir, 17.
 Lloyd, Captain, 17.
 Lloyd, Owen, 26.
 Lort, Sampson, 32.

Mabbott, 33.
 Mackworth, Humphrey, 6, 32, 34.
 Madrin, 5, 22, 23, 24, 27.
 Mainwaring, Arthur, Sir, 9.
 Mansell, Bussey, 32.
 Mason, Colonel, 15.
 Mathews, 7, 14, 30.
 Merrick, 14.
 Moore, Edward, 15, 21, 24, 26,
 27, 31.
 More, Samuel, 9, 10.
 Morgan, Henry, 32.
 Morris, John, 1.
 Morris, 24.
 Myddleton, Thomas, Sir, 3, 7, 9,
 14.
 Myddleton, William, Sir, 16.
 Mytton, Edward, 1, 25, 29.
 Mytton, Magdalen, Mrs., 3, 6, 7.
 Mytton, Major-Gen., *passim* pedi-
 gree at the end.

Napier, James, 12.
 Napier, Richard, 12.
 Needham, Colonel, 14.
 Newport, Rachell, Lady, 36.
 Newton, 29.
 Nicholas, John, 32.
 Nicholas, 25.
 Norbury, John, 31.

Oldsworth, Michael, 32.
 Owen, John, Sir, 17, 21, 22.
 Owen, John, 23.
 Owen, Leighton, 10.

Parry, Joseph, 23.
 Phillips, James, 32.
 Pierpoint, William, 6, 7, 15.
 Pope, 29.
 Powell, 25.
 Price, John, 32.



140264

92

M999

Mytton, Thomas

Letters and papers.

140264

92

M999



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